

# CHILLING

TALES OF HORROR

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**HOSTLY REVENGE**

*Rotting Flesh Of The Dead*

**TWIN OF TERROR**

**CURSE OF THE VAMPIRES**

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# CHILLING

## TALES OF HORROR

OCTOBER 1969  
VOLUME 1, NUMBER 3



### **HOSTLY REVENGE** .....

Murder, slaughter and blood in the jungle. Voodoo magic gave strange powers to the shrunken heads of his victims

### **THE MIDNIGHT HOWL** .....

What would you do if you were trapped in an entire village of werewolves? Don't miss this bone-rattling horror

### **THE HUNGRY HORDE** .....

Bat monsters, out to conquer the earth, needed human blood

### **ROTTING FLESH OF THE DEAD** .....

He'd murdered his own brother. But fate would not allow him to dispose of the body

### **THE LIVING HEAD** .....

The ghoul searched for the missing pieces to his body

### **TWIN OF TERROR** .....

One spirit was good; the other evil, and both were fighting for control

### **CURSE OF THE VAMPIRES** .....

No one knew what made the little orphan child "different", nor what power a full moon had over her

4

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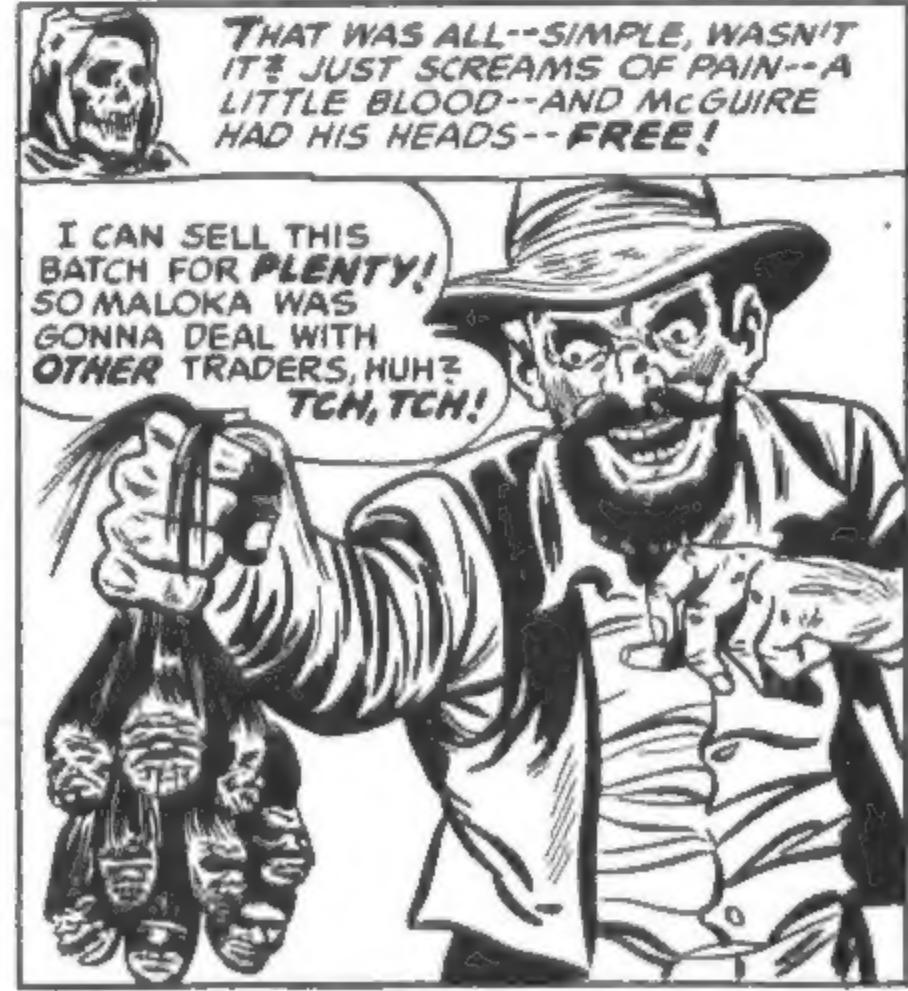
PENNY REED, Art Associate

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HA-HA-HA! WHAT DO YOU KNOW OF DEATH--ALL YOU PITIFUL MORTALS OUT THERE? AND WHO BETTER FIT TO TELL YOU THAN THE GRIM REAPER? TRY NOT TO TREMBLE, WEAK FOOLS, WHILE I TELL YOU THE STORY OF HOW A MAN DIED IN THE JUNGLE-- SCREAMING! AND WHILE THE BLOOD DRIPS, YOU'LL HEAR A TALE OF HORROR-- OF HOW NATIVE MAGIC DELIVERED THE QUAKING SOUL OF A MURDERER INTO MY CLUTCHING HAND--OF THE AWFUL TERROR THAT LAY WITHIN...

## GHOSTLY REVENGE



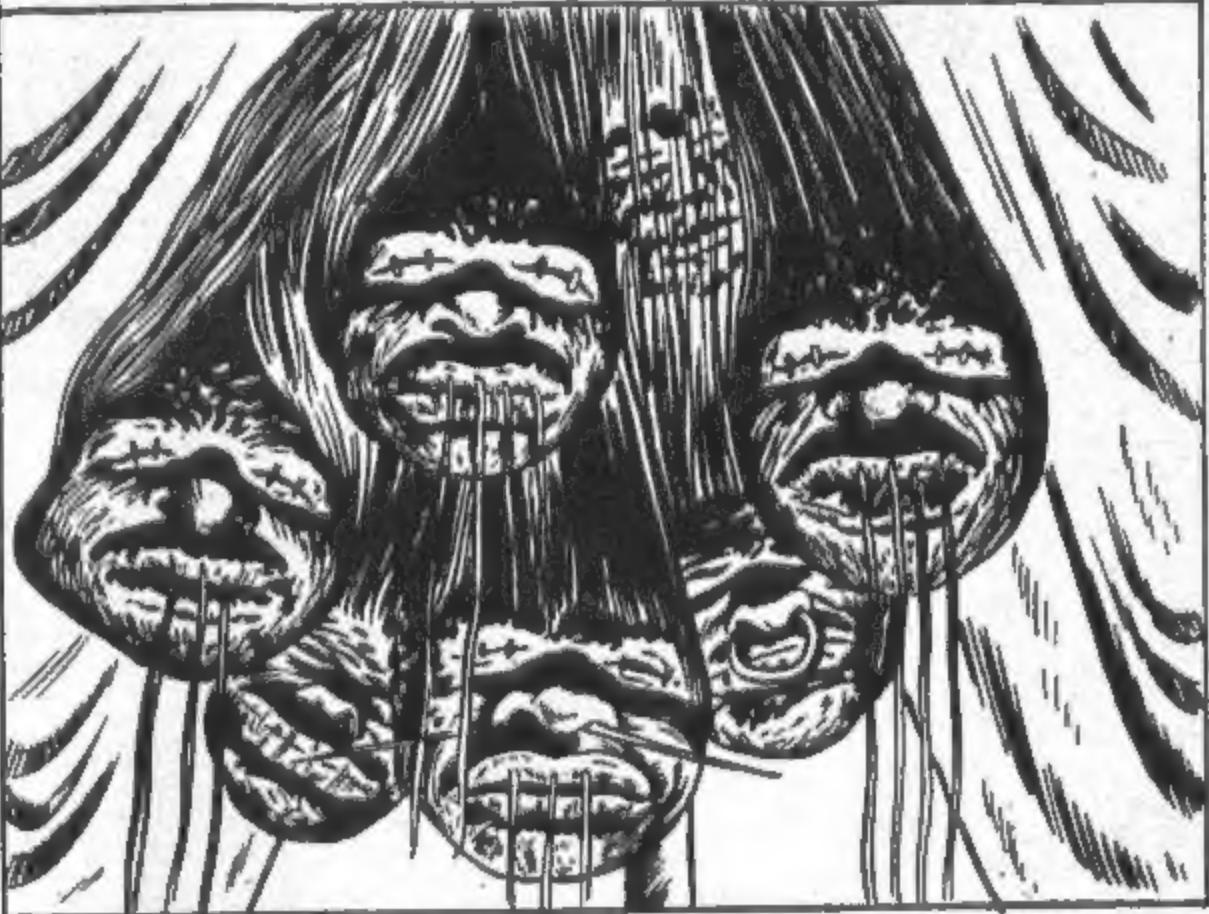




McGUIRE SLEPT HAPPILY THAT NIGHT! TOUCHING, ISN'T IT-- HOW UNAWARE HE WAS OF MY PRESENCE! YES, HE STILL HAD HIS LIFE THEN--AND HIS BLOOD--



---AND HE HAD HIS HEADS--HIS TINY HEADS---



FROM DEEP IN THE JUNGLE CAME THE HOLLOW BOOMING OF A DRUM! EVEN IF MCGUIRE HAD HEARD IT, HE COULDN'T HAVE KNOWN THAT THIS WAS NO REAL DRUM--THAT NO LIVING HANDS BEAT IT!



AND IN ANSWER TO THE WEIRD SUMMONS--FROM BEYOND DEATH ITSELF--



I STOOD ASIDE AS OLD MALOKA'S SPIRIT ENTERED THE TENT! WAS IT IMAGINATION THEN--OR HAD THE EXPRESSIONS ON THE FACES OF THE TINY HEADS CHANGED? LOOK--SEE FOR YOURSELVES -- AND LISTEN!



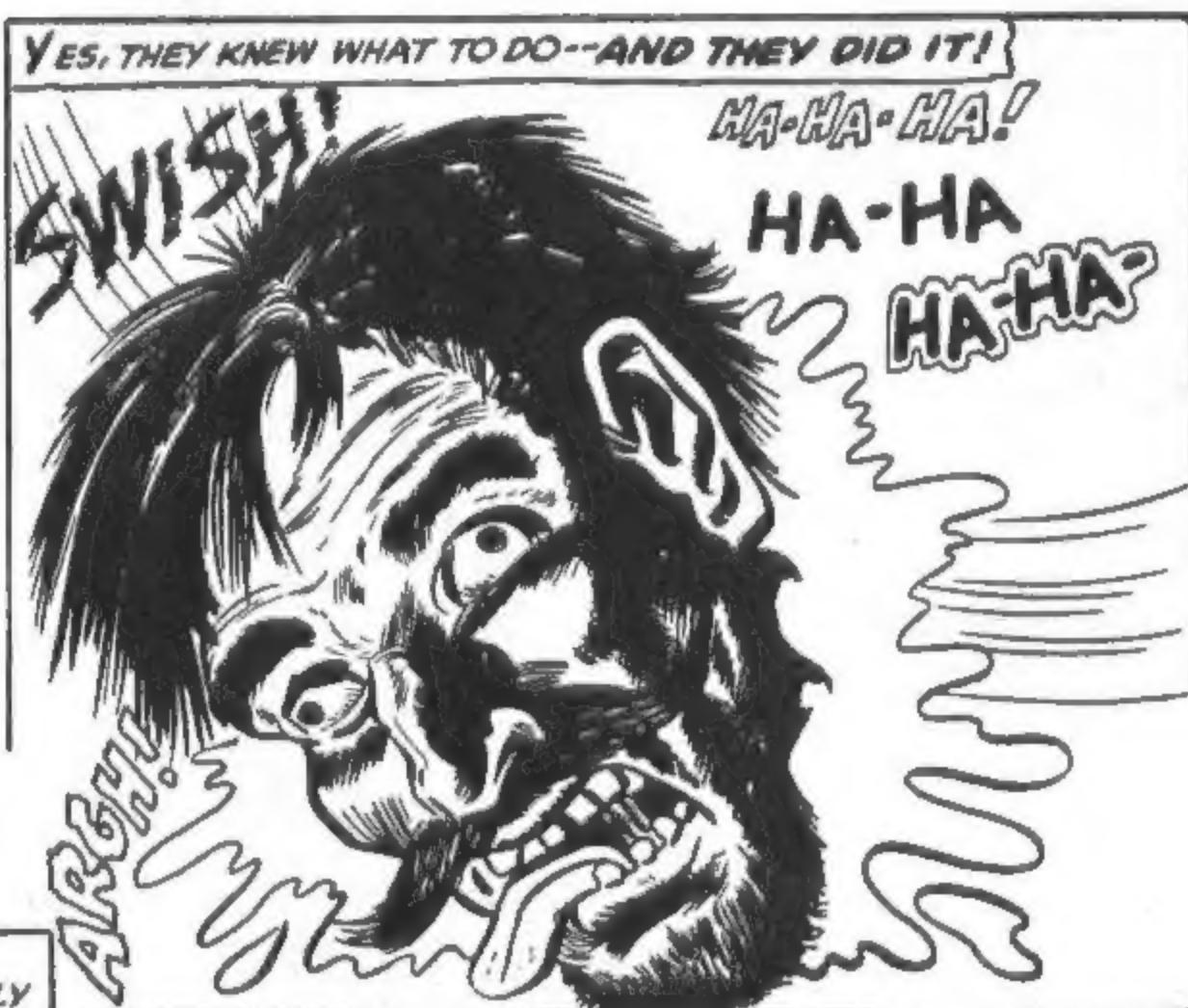


YES, THEY SEARCHED FOR A SOUL  
--MCGUIRE'S SOUL--WITH  
RENDING TEETH THAT REDDENED  
WITH HIS BLOOD!

OH, GOOD HEAVENS,  
WHAT--OH-WWW! HELP!

HOW YOU WOULD HAVE LAUGHED--LAUGHED  
TO SEE WHAT HAPPENED THEN! IT WAS TRIBAL  
MAGIC THAT GAVE THE TINY HEADS SPECTRAL  
BODIES--AND NOW THEY GROUPED FOR A  
FIGHT TO THE FINISH--MCGUIRE'S FINISH!

ARR-RRRR...  
GRR-ROWWW!  
OH, N-NO--NO!  
THEY'RE T-TINY,  
COMPLETE DWARVES  
NOW--AND THEY'RE  
COMIN' FOR ME  
AGAIN!



# The *Midnight Howl*



YEARS AGO, A WANDERING FUR TRAPPER MADE HIS WAY ON SNOWSHOES TO A REGION THAT WOULD HAVE MEANT A SHRIEKING DEATH TO ANY MAN LESS FORTUNATE -- AND WHEN HE RETURNED -- HE WAS NOT ALONE ! THIS STORY IS THE SEQUEL TO THAT INCREDIBLE DISCOVERY -- WITH A CLIMAX AS CHILL AS THE ICE-BOUND PEAKS -- RINGING WITH THE HIDEOUS RISE AND FALL OF THE MIDNIGHT HOWL !

IN THE MOUNTAINS OF NORTHWEST CANADA -- WHERE THE LONG ARCTIC NIGHTS CREAK AND RUSTLE -- AND THE MOON SHADOWS SPRAWL BLUE UPON THE SNOW --

IT'S NO USE, LINDA -- WE CAN'T GAIN ALTITUDE WITH THAT LOAD OF ICE ON THE WINGS -- WE'LL HAVE TO LAND !

I CAN'T THINK OF A WORSE PLACE TO BE STRANDED, FRED -- WITH NOTHING AROUND US BUT SNOW AND MUFFLED SILENCE !

I WOULDN'T MIND FACING IT ALONE, HONEY -- BUT I CERTAINLY WISH I HADN'T BEEN FOOL ENOUGH TO TAKE YOU ALONG !



FOR MONTHS, I'VE TOYED WITH THE IDEA OF A TEST FLIGHT IN SEVERE WINTER WEATHER -- AND YET I KEPT PUTTING IT OFF -- BECAUSE SOMETHING WARNED ME IT WOULD BE DANGEROUS! BUT EVEN THEN, IT WAS A DANGER I COULDN'T DEFINE -- AND I HAVE A FEELING NOW IT'S STILL AHEAD OF US!

AS SNOW TOPPLES FROM THE MANTLED PINES-- THUDDING SOFTLY IN THE RESTLESS SOLITUDE--

FRED-- LET'S NOT LEAVE THE PLANE! I'D RATHER FREEZE TO DEATH THAN GO WANDERING OFF-- AND FIND OURSELVES FACING HEAVEN KNOWS WHAT!

COME ON, HONEY-- DON'T LET THE ATMOSPHERE THROW YOU! EVEN IN A LONELY REGION LIKE THIS-- WE'RE BOUND TO COME ACROSS PEOPLE SOMEWHERE!



IN A WILDERNESS WHERE EVERY TREE CASTS A BLURRED SHADOW-- AND EVERY SHADOW QUIVERS LIKE A CROUCHING THING--

HAVE YOU NOTICED THAT WE'VE BEEN WALKING IN A DEFINITE DIRECTION? I WONDER IF IT'S MERE CHANCE-- OR BECAUSE WE FEEL SOMETHING WE CAN'T SEE?

I'M AWARE OF SOMETHING, LINDA! BUT COME TO THINK OF IT-- I'VE ALWAYS EXPERIENCED A VAGUE UNEASINESS JUST BEFORE MIDNIGHT!



THERE'S ONLY ONE ANSWER-- A LEAP TO THE TOP OF THAT ROCK-- AND NO HUMAN COULD'VE DONE THAT!

GET BACK! I THOUGHT I SAW A PINE BRANCH STIRRING UP THERE -- BUT IT'S A HEAD-- PEERING DOWN AT US!



THEN-- UPTHURST AGAINST A GLINTING SKY--



WITH A BOUND THAT CASTS A SHAGGY SLOTH OF EVIL UPON THE SNOW--



THERE ARE TIMES WHEN FEAR CAN TRANSFORM A MAN -- OR LONE -- OR SOMETHING DEEP WITHIN HIM THAT FINDS VOICE IN A DESPERATE SNARL! IN A RUSH THAT RAISES A HISSING SPRAY OF SNOW--

WHATEVER HAPPENS-- YOU'RE NOT GOING TO TOUCH HER!



FOR AN INSTANT, A PANTING STARE GLEAMS LIKE POINTS OF FIRE FROM THE MONSTROUS FACE -- AND THEN--

FRED-- IT'S DRAWING BACK!

I'M NOT FOOL ENOUGH TO THINK I'VE CHECKED IT! LET'S GET AWAY FROM THAT THING-- WHILE WE HAVE A CHANCE!



SLOWLY THE STARS FADE -- AND SPURRED BY THE GREY PRESENCE OF PURSUING FEAR--

WHAT'S THE USE OF TRYING TO ESCAPE, FRED-- KNOWING WE'RE UP AGAINST A CREATURE THAT CAN CHANGE FROM A HUMAN FORM INTO A FIEND LIKE THAT?

DEALING WITH A WEREWOLF IS BAD ENOUGH, LINDA-- WITHOUT ASSUMING IT ACTUALLY CHANGED! THOSE FOOTPRINTS WERE MADE BY THE CREATURE'S VICTIM -- AND OUR BEST BET IS TO FOLLOW THEM TO THE VILLAGE HE CAME FROM!



A MILE BEYOND--

DARLING -- I DON'T THINK I CAN GO MUCH FURTHER THROUGH THESE TERRIBLE DRIFTS!



THEN-- ETCHED STARKLY BY THE HAZY MOONLIGHT--

HONEY-- WE MADE IT!

HOUSES! THANK GOODNESS YOU HAD THE RIGHT HUNCH ABOUT FOLLOWING THOSE TRACKS!



IN A SUDDEN CLUTCHING REALIZATION--

YE GODS-- WE WERE HEADING THROUGH A HEAVY SNOWFALL -- THERE AREN'T ANY TRACKS! AND HOW COME I EXPECTED TO FIND A VILLAGE -- INSTEAD OF A SINGLE CABIN! GUESSWORK CAN GO SO FAR -- WHAT'S BEHIND IT? AND THOSE CABINS-- THEY LOOK-- EMPTY!



IN THE NEXT INSTANT-- AS IF EVIL ITSELF HOWLED  
A MOCKING ANSWER--

GOOD HEAVENS-- IT'S THE WEREWOLF, THERE'S MORE THAN ONE CREATURE BAYING THIS TIME-- BUT I DON'T SEE A THING! QUICK-- WHERE WHERE LET'S GET TO THOSE CABINS! VERY CLOSE!



THE PALE FACES WERE AS COLD AS THE HEART OF A GLACIER-- EXCEPT FOR THE EYES-- AND THEY HELD A GLEAM OF SEETHING TERROR!

COULD BE THEY JUST LOOK WEIRD, LINDA-- BUT IT'S STRANGE THEY DON'T SEEM TO FEAR THAT NOISE WE HEARD!



WHAT'LL WE DO IF WE CAN'T GET INTO THOSE EMPTY CABINS-- SUPPOSE THEY'RE LOCKED!

THEY'RE NOT LOCKED-- AND THEY'RE NOT EMPTY! THE DOORS ARE INCHING OPEN-- ONE BY ONE!



WAS IT SNOW RUMBLING DOWN THE MOUNTAIN-SIDE?

OR WAS IT THE SOUND THAT MEANS SOMETHING ELSE IS MOVING IN THE FROSTY WOODS?



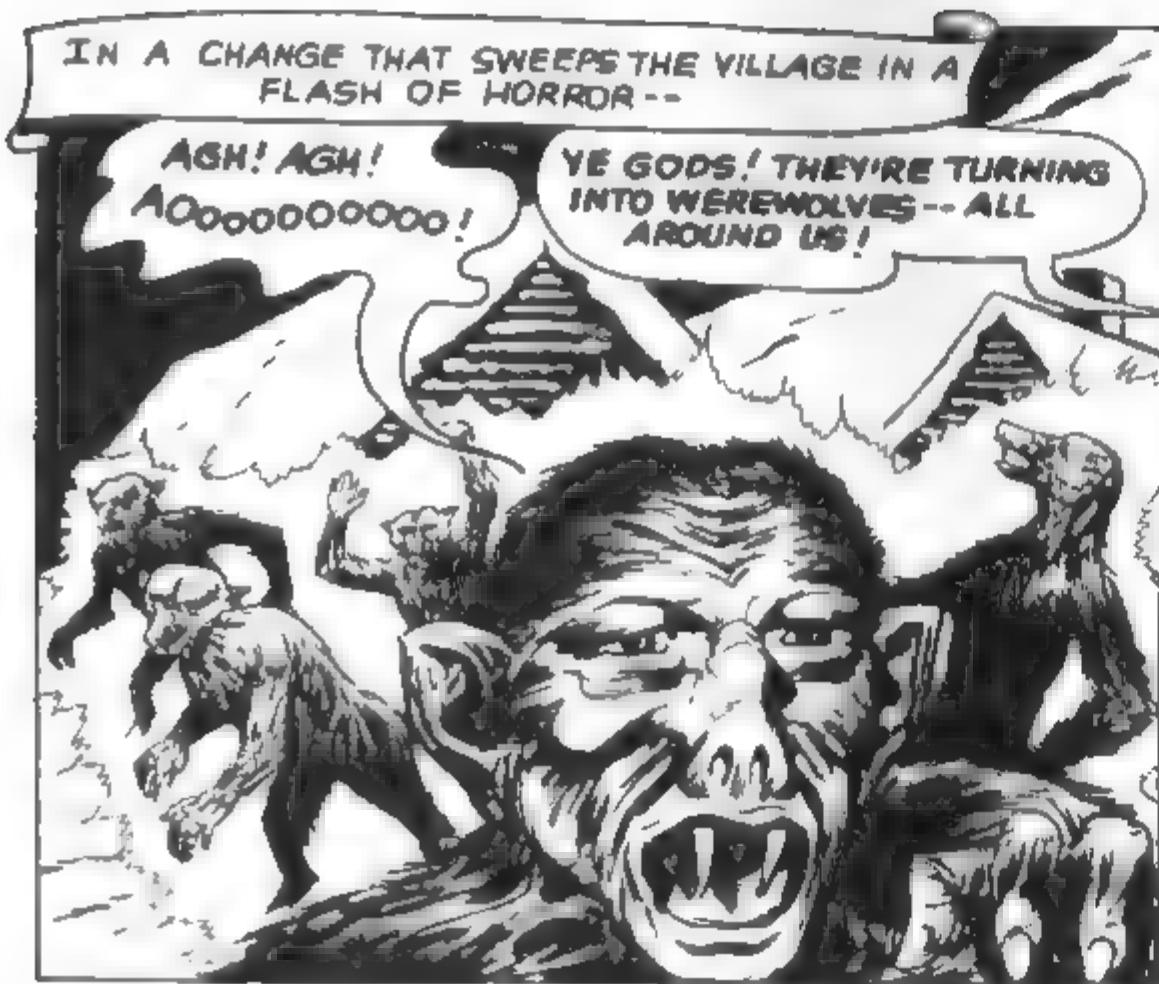
ALL AT ONCE-- QUAVERING CLOSE IN THE TINGLING AIR--



LOOK! GREAT GUNS-- CAN'T YOU SEE THAT THING?

HAA!  
HA HA!  
HAA!





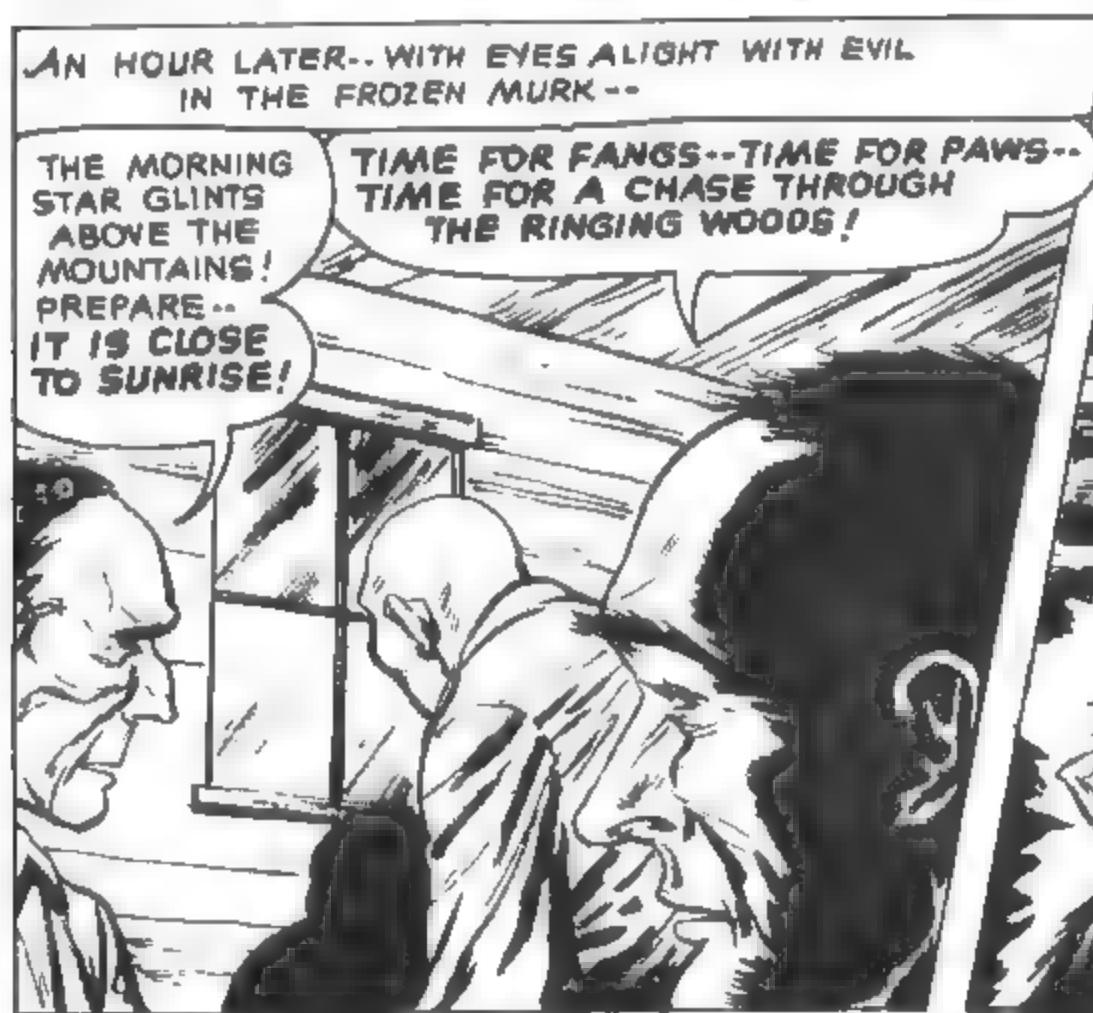
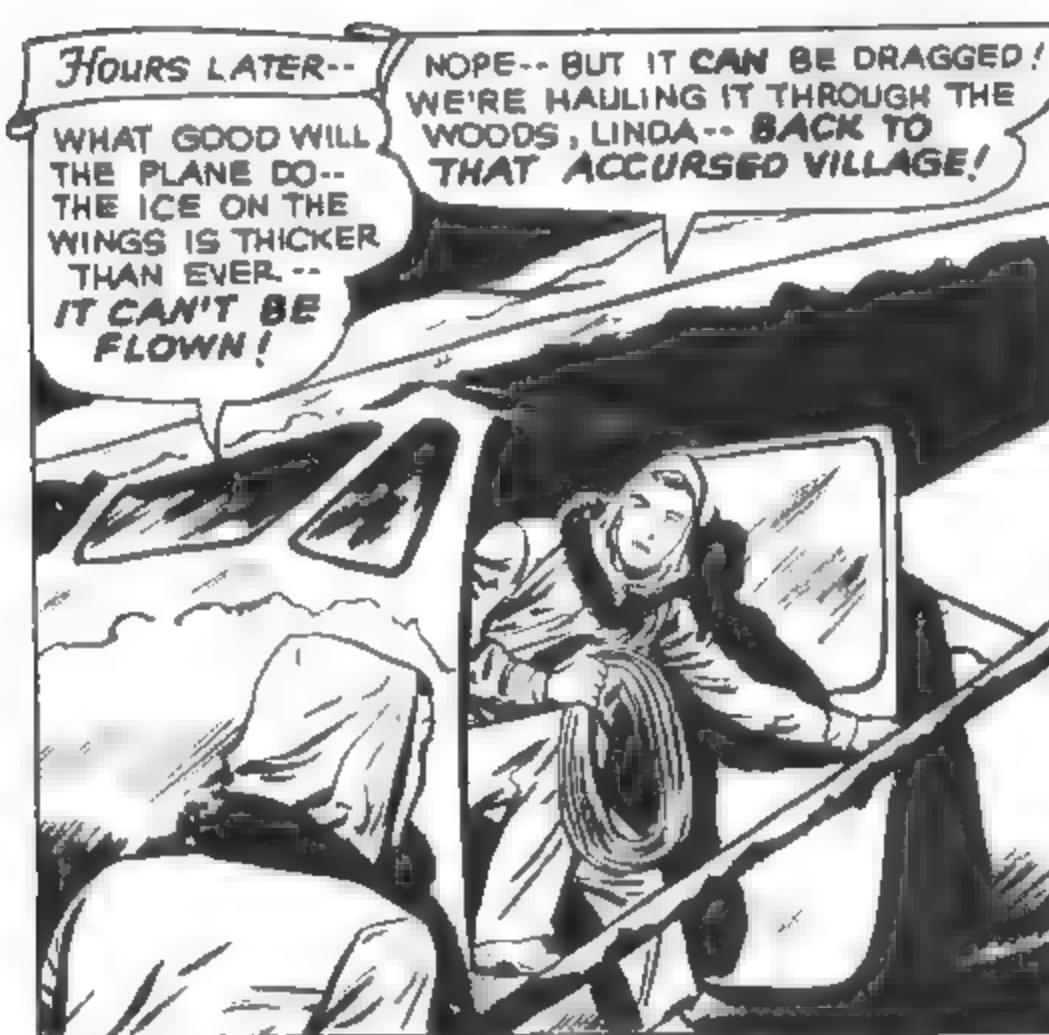
FOR A MOMENT, NOTHING REGISTERS TO FRED--NOTHING BUT A CRUSHING WAVE OF RAW HORROR--AND IN THAT VERY MOMENT--

THEN-- ROUSED BY A SCREAM SHARP AS SHATTERED GLASS--

OH! FRED-- DON'T LET THEM TOUCH ME!

YE GODS-- LINDA!





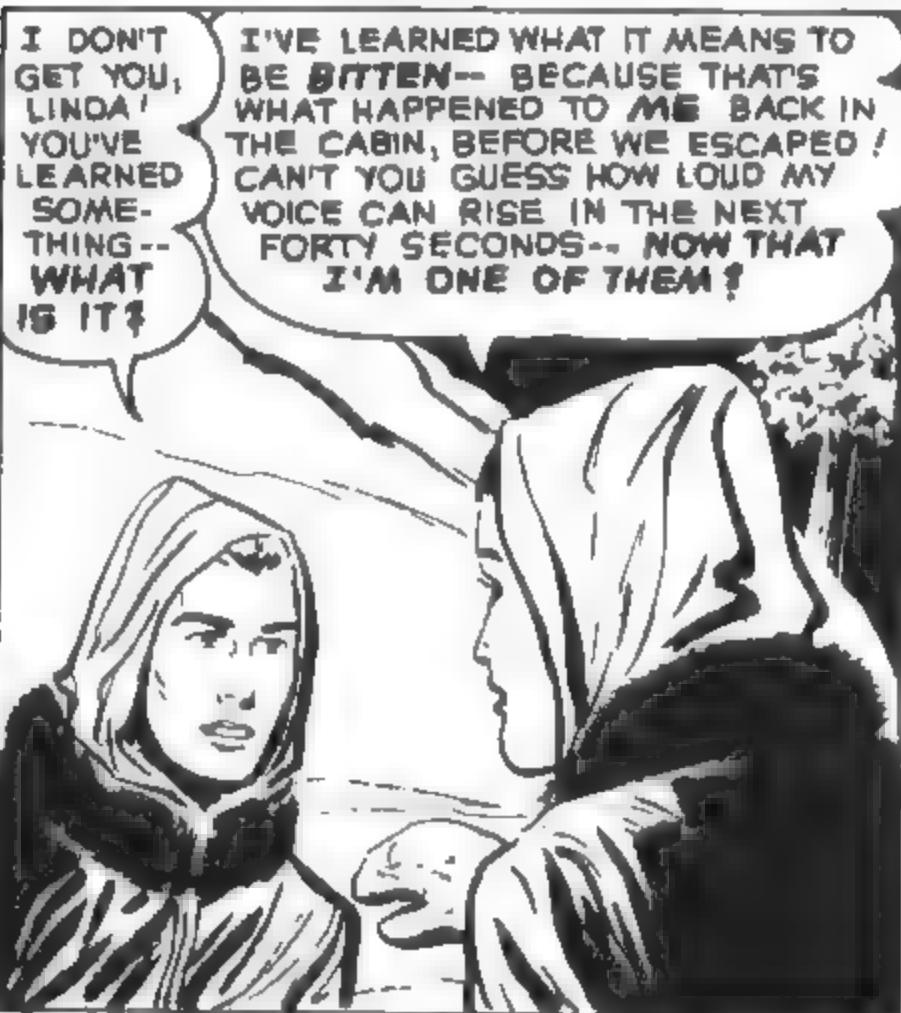
THEN-- AS THE ENTIRE JAGGED HORIZON SEEMS TO SHIFT--



WITH THE ACCURSED VILLAGE ENGULFED--

HONEY--WE'VE DONE IT-- JUST A MINUTE BEFORE DAWN! NOW CAN'T YOU THINK YOU WON'T HEAR SO MUCH AS A SINGLE SMOTHERED YELP!

FRED-- ARE YOU SURE? OF ANYONE ELSE WHO MIGHT RAISE THE MIDNIGHT HOWL?



I DON'T GET YOU, LINDA! YOU'VE LEARNED SOMETHING-- WHAT IS IT?

I'VE LEARNED WHAT IT MEANS TO BE BITTEN-- BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED TO ME BACK IN THE CABIN, BEFORE WE ESCAPED! CAN'T YOU GUESS HOW LOUD MY VOICE CAN RISE IN THE NEXT FORTY SECONDS-- NOW THAT I'M ONE OF THEM?

LINDA-- DON'T! CAN'T YOU SEE WHAT IT MEANS TO TRADE YOUR SOUL FOR THE LIFE OF A WEREWOLF -- THE GRISLY SEARCH FOR PREY IN AN UN-ENDING CYCLE OF HORROR?

YOU WON'T.. YOU WON'T KEEP ME FROM DOING SOMETHING I MUST SEEK WITH A DESIRE YOU'LL NEVER FATHOM! YES, YOU CAN SPEAK OF HORROR -- BECAUSE YOU'LL NEVER KNOW THE LURE OF SHAGGY GREY FORMS LOPING ALONG THE MOONLIT SNOW-- CALLING TO THEIR OWN WITH THE MIDNIGHT HOWL!



I THOUGHT YOU COULD HAVE GUESSED, LINDA-- BY NOW!

WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOUR FACE? IT'S CHANGING!



I ALMOST FORGOT HOW TO CHANGE, LINDA! LOOK AT ME-- CAN YOU IMAGINE YOUR FACE TURNING INTO SOMETHING LIKE THIS?

SHAGGY-- EVIL-- OH, DON'T-- DON'T! I CAN'T STAND IT!

THEN--WITH THE SUN'S FIERY RIM REDDENING THE SNOW--FRED RESUMES HIS NORMAL FORM--

FRED-- I DON'T WANT TO BECOME A THING LIKE THAT! HELP ME-- DON'T LET IT HAPPEN!

TAKE IT EASY, LINDA! IT'LL NEVER HAPPEN NOW-- IT'S DAYBREAK!



DARLING, I HARDLY KNOW HOW TO ASK-- BUT WERE YOU A WEREWOLF-- ONCE?

NOT EXACTLY-- BUT I WOULD HAVE BEEN IF I'D REMAINED IN THIS ACCURSED VILLAGE! YOU SEE, LINDA-- I WANDERED AWAY AS A CHILD-- AND WAS FOUND BY A FUR TRAPPER WHO TOOK ME TO CIVILIZATION!



IN LATER YEARS, I REMEMBERED MY BEHAVIOR THEN-- HOW I SNARLED AND YELPED AT MIDNIGHT, STRIVING TO ANSWER THE UNHEARD SUMMONS THAT STILL ECHOED WITHIN ME! IN TIME, MY MEMORY OF THE MIDNIGHT HOWL FADED AWAY-- I COULD LOOK AT A PICTURE OF A WOLF WITH LITTLE MORE THAN A NAMELESS QUIVER OF KINSHIP-- BUT SOMETHING REMAINED!

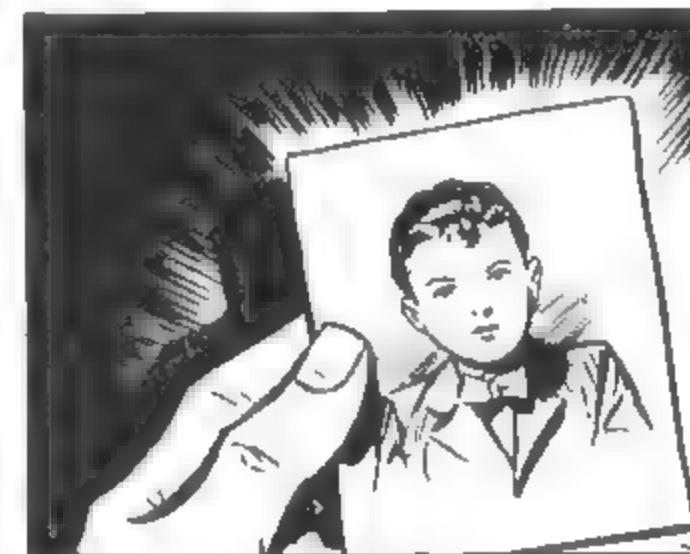
SOMETHING-- STRONG ENOUGH TO IMPEL YOU TO MAKE THIS FLIGHT!

IT WAS A CROSSCURRENT, LINDA-- MOVING ME UNAWARE ON A SECRET COURSE-- DRAWING ME BACK TO THE HALF-WORLD FROM WHICH I HAD COME! THAT MUCH I FINALLY REALIZED WHEN I SEARCHED THAT OLD TRUNK-- BRINGING BACK A SURGE OF MEMORIES THAT BRISTLED LIKE JAGGED FANGS!



ONE THING-- THANK HEAVEN-- SAVED ME THEN FROM THE CLUTCHING CONVICTION THAT I HAD AT LAST RETURNED! ONE THING, LINDA-- AND THAT WAS THE THOUGHT THAT NOTHING COULD MEAN MORE THAN YOU!

DARLING, EVEN IF IT WAS SOMETHING HIDEOUS-- WE'RE SAFE FROM TERROR NOW! LET ME SEE WHAT YOU FOUND!



THE TAWNY SUNLIGHT GLAZED THE SNOW THAT LAY LIKE AN ETERNAL MANTLE OVER THINGS THAT WOULD NEVER RISE... A KEENING WIND RIPPLED THE SILENT DRIFTS-- AND SOMETHING FLUTTERED IN FRED STANTON'S HAND! IT WAS A PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN YEARS BEFORE-- THE PORTRAIT OF A BOY WHO WAS FATED TO ESCAPE-- AND WHOSE RETURN WOULD MARK THE END OF THE MIDNIGHT HOWL! HIS OWN PICTURE!

THE END

# THE HUNGRY HORDE



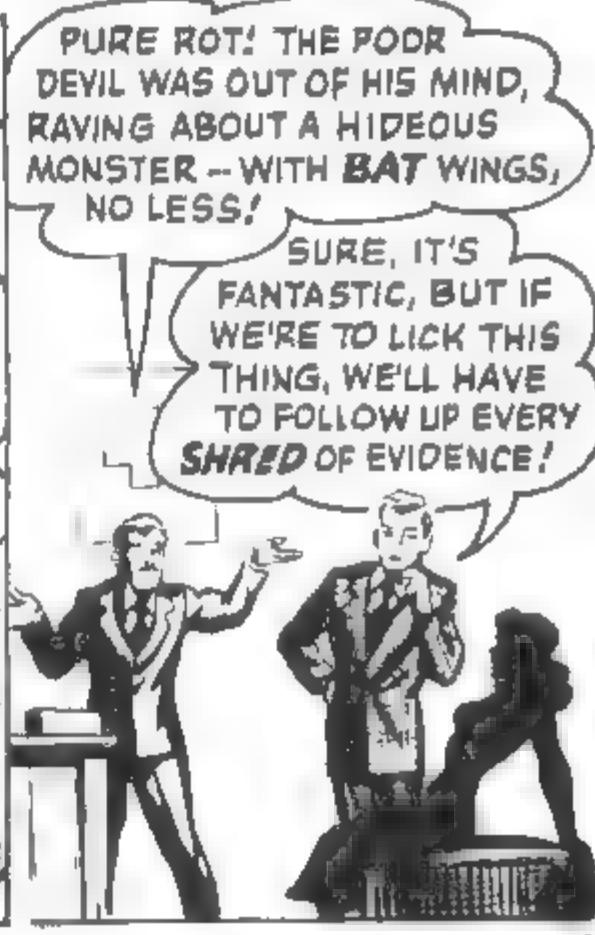
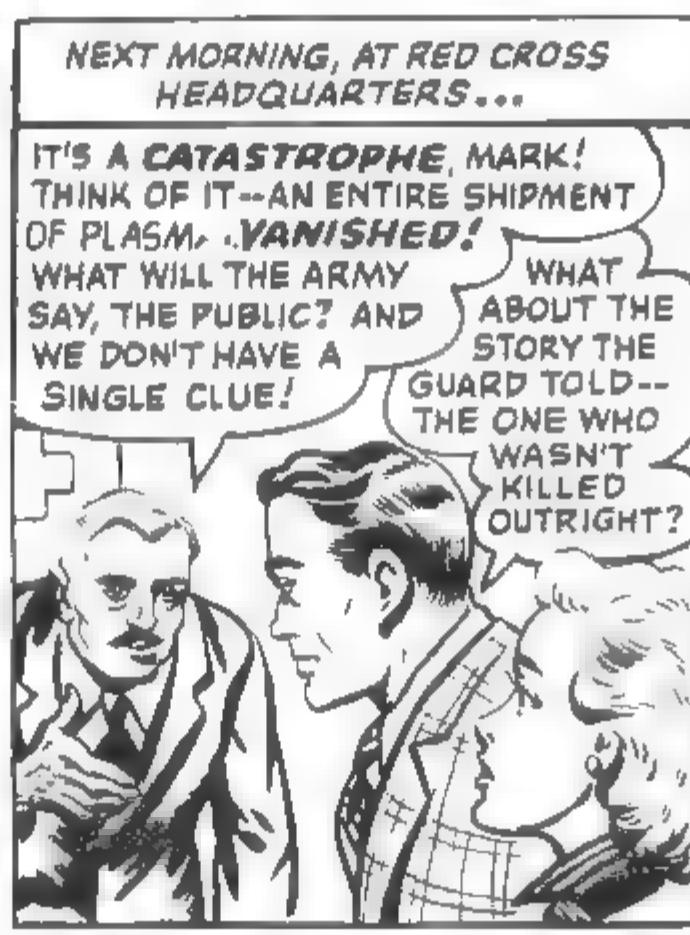
Out of the shadows they came, from crumbling graves and rotted tombs! Their eyes blazed evil -- their twisted brains seethed with plans of death and destruction -- and the entire world was their target!



IN A SWIFT DOWNWARD PLUNGE...



WITH THE GUARDS DISPOSED OF...



THAT'S WHY I CALLED YOU IN, MARK! YOU'RE ONE OF THE BEST DETECTIVES IN THE COUNTRY! YOU'VE GOT TO CRACK THIS CASE! YOU **MUST!**

EASY NOW, MR. MASON-- MARTHA AND I WILL GET RIGHT ON IT!

OUTSIDE...

OKAY, MARTHA, HERE'S YOUR ASSIGNMENT! CHECK EVERY NEWSPAPER FOR AN ITEM THAT MAY GIVE US AN ANGLE--THEN MEET ME AT THE LAB! GOT IT?

I'M ON MY WAY!

THAT EVENING--

COULD BE, MARK-- LOOK AT **THIS!**

**TOWN TIPPIER TELLS WHOPPER!**

Last night, Clyde Daniels staggered into the abandoned Lombardy house on Gribold Road and reportedly heard a running conversation between a number of talking bats. Rushing to Police Headquarters, Daniels was allowed to sleep it off under lock and key. Amused officials

LATER THAT NIGHT-- WITH THE MOONLIGHT GLISTENING ON THE ANCIENT GABLES--

YOU SURE PLAY YOUR HUNCHES **STRONG**, BABY-- AND NOW THAT I ACTUALLY SEE THE LOMBARDY PLACE, I'M **CONVINCED** THAT NEWSPAPER STORY ABOUT **TALKING BATS** IS A CLUE!

IT... IT DOES LOOK RATHER FRIGHTENING!

YOU WAIT THERE WHILE I LOOK AROUND INSIDE--NO POINT TAKING ANY UNNECESSARY CHANCES!

RIGHT, DARLING-- BUT DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE LONG!

BRRR--IT'S SPOOKY OUT HERE--AS IF I WERE BEING WATCHED--BY INVISIBLE EYES!

WITHOUT WARNING--

HEL-- MHHHHHFF!

AS THE MONSTER DESCENDS WITH  
THE UNCONSCIOUS GIRL IN  
HIS STEELY GRASP...

HAA-HA-HA! ANOTHER  
VICTIM - FOR THE  
MASTER!



WHEN MARTHA REVIVES...

WH-WHAT  
HAP...?  
MERCIFUL  
HEAVENS  
--A  
VAMPIRE!

YES, YOU WHINING  
SPY - A **MASTER**  
VAMPIRE - AND SOON,  
**RULER OF THE  
WORLD!**



SOON YOU WILL DIE FOR  
YOUR CURIOSITY -- BUT  
FIRST YOU WILL SEE WHAT  
IS IN STORE FOR THE  
**REST OF MANKIND** --  
A PLAN THAT WILL  
ENSLAVE THE WORLD AND  
MAKE ME THE SUPREME  
MASTER FOR ALL ETERNITY!  
**COME!**



DESCENDING INTO THE DANK  
BASEMENT - A FANTASTIC  
SIGHT!

GOOD HEAVENS!  
THAT HUGE VAT--  
WHAT'S IN IT?

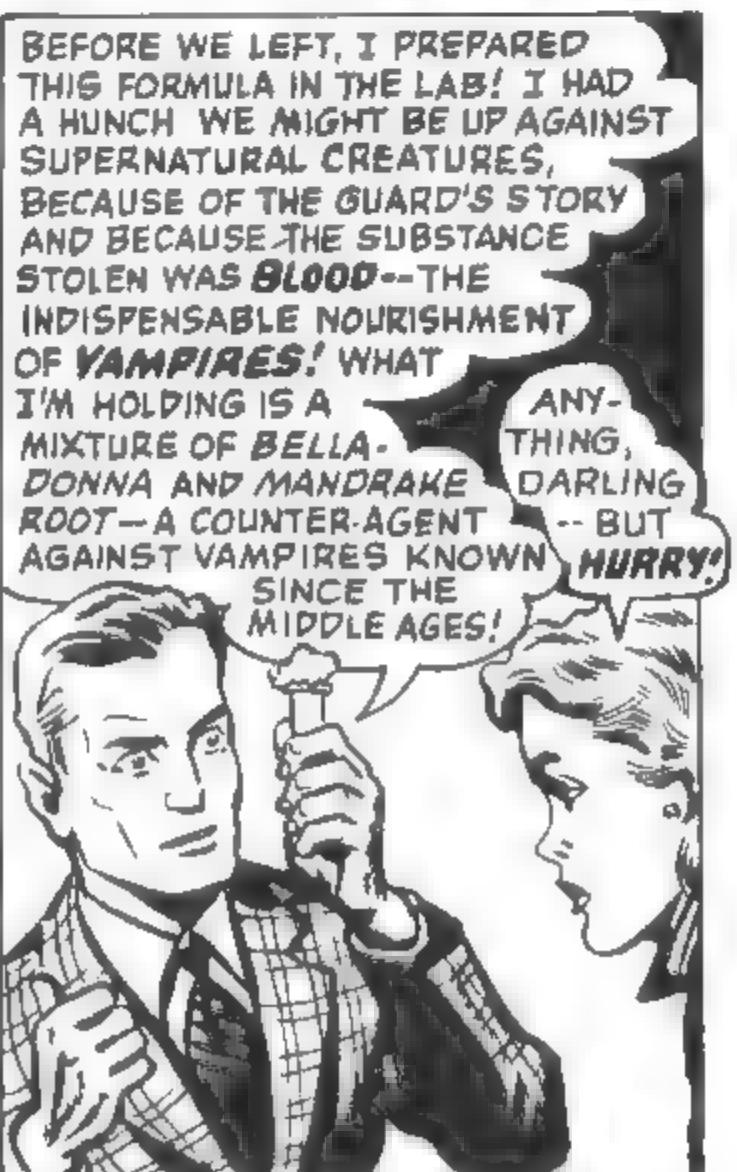


TO LIVE, A VAMPIRE NEEDS HUMAN  
PREY, BUT VICTIMS AREN'T ALWAYS  
READILY AVAILABLE! THAT'S WHY I HAVE  
THOUGHT OF THIS! SOON THE NEED OF  
MY FOLLOWERS WILL BE QUENCHED, AND  
THEIR STRENGTH WILL BE IRRESISTIBLE! THEY  
SHALL BE THE CORE OF  
MY VAMPIRE ARMY!



THEY IN TURN WILL ROB  
OTHER BLOOD BANKS, SO THAT  
MORE OF OUR KIND CAN BE  
NOURISHED! WE WILL GROW IN  
NUMBERS, AND THEN **STRIKE**! WE  
WILL ENSLAVE THE WORLD AND COMPEL  
ALL MORTALS TO DONATE PLASMA TO US AT  
REGULAR INTERVALS! THUS WE SHALL  
RULE FOREVER, FOR AS LONG AS WE  
HAVE HUMAN BLOOD, VAMPIRES  
CAN NEVER DIE!









HERE IT IS, FOR YOUR ENTERTAINMENT, A COLOSSAL COLLECTION OF STAR SPANGLED SENSATIONS. THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH! SEE A SPARKLING NEW WORLD UNFOLD BEFORE YOUR EYES. THRILL TO THE DEATH-DEFYING AERIALISTS. LAUGH RIOTOUSLY AT THE ANTICS OF THE CLOWNS! BUT IT ISN'T ALWAYS FUNNY! UNDERRAETH THE VAST, TIMSEL HEART OF THE CIRCUS SOMETIMES BEATS A HORROR THAT ISN'T IN THE BILLING. A GRISLY TERROR THAT THE PRESS-AGENTS, WHITE-LIPPED, STRIVE TO HIDE! YOU'LL CLUTCH AT YOUR THROAT BUT NOT AT THE LION'S MIGHTY ROAR! THROUGH DRIED, CRACKED LIPS YOU'LL TRY TO SCREAM. AND TOTO, THE GORILLA, WON'T BE RESPONSIBLE! THAT HYSTERICAL CACKLE OF SHEER FEAR IT'S YOU, WILDLY LAUGHING, WHEN IT ISN'T EVEN TIME FOR THE CLOWNS! NO, THIS IS A NEW ACT WHICH SETS YOUR HEART BEATING TO A LUNATIC RHYTHM, AND IT TAKES PLACE OFFSCENE, WITH DEATH GRINNING FROM THE WINGS! IT'S A STORY OF STARK BLACK HATRED BETWEEN BROTHERS TRAPPED TOGETHER BY A GRIM JEST OF FATE...A STORY SUCH AS YOU'VE NEVER HEARD! READ THIS TERROR TALE OF A TRAGIC PAIR JOINED, YOU'D THINK, FOR ETERNITY.

# Rotting Flesh Of The Dead



THE CALLIOPE IS STILLED...THE CRIES OF HAWKERS HUSHED! FOR THE CIRCUS SLEEPS...



THEN, DAWN! THE SUN MOUNTS HIGHER...THE WORLD OF THE TAMBARK STIRS...



EVERYBODY UP... TO FACE A NEW DAY IN THEIR WORLD OF MAKE-BELIEVE!  
FIRST THE ANIMALS...



...AND THE "STRANGE PEOPLE"...INCLUDING TWO OF THE STRANGEST!



OH-OH. THERE WE GO, READER. GIVING AWAY ONE OF THE CIRCUS'S MOST CLOSELY-GUARDED SECRETS! YES, THE SIAMESE TWINS HATED EACH OTHER WITH A MURDEROUS VENOM THAT SURPASSED BELIEF! FUNNY, ISN'T IT.. SORT OF LIKE.. HATING YOURSELF! BUT THAT'S THE WAY IT WAS! YOU WOULDN'T MENTION LOVE IN THE SAME BREATH WITH BILLIE AND PHILLIE ALLEN. UNLESS YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT THE WAY BILLIE, THE DARK-HAIRED ONE, FELT ABOUT ROSAMUND TRAVELL...



WONDERFUL OF YOU TO ASK, HE SAYS -- BABBLING LIKE A DRUNKEN IDIOT! YOU FOOL, YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH HER, AREN'T YOU? AS IF SHE'D EVER LOOK AT A MISSHAPEN LITTLE FREAK LIKE YOU!

SHUT YOUR FILTHY MOUTH! SHE'S BEAUTIFUL! OH, IF ONLY I WEREN'T WHAT I AM-- TIED DOWN FOR LIFE!



BUT THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT.. IS THERE? HOW DOES THAT SONG GO? OH, YES... "I GO WHERE YOU GO... YOU GO WHERE I GO..."

SHUT UP! I--I CAN TELL FROM THE WAY SHE LOOKS AT ME THAT MAYBE-- IF THINGS HAD BEEN DIFFERENT-- BUT OH, NO! THERE'S GOT TO BE YOU-- ALWAYS YOU!



IT WAS A STRANGE COURTSHIP...AND HOW THE CIRCUS LAUGHED, LAUGHED! BUT BILLIE COULDN'T KNOW THAT...HE WAS TOO BLINDED BY LOVE!

SEE THAT TRAPEZE? JUST PICTURE HER UP IN THE AIR, FREE AS A BIRD! AND YOU, DOWN BELOW - CHAINED TO ME!

Rosamund Travelli

YOU'D THINK THAT FATE HAD ALREADY PLAYED ENOUGH OF A TRICK ON THE LITTLE ~~BLIND~~ MOTHERS! BUT NO. THEY HAD TO ARRIVE AT THIS INOPPORTUNE MOMENT...

I DON'T GET IT, ROSAMUND! HA-HA-- I CAN'T HELP THE WAY YOU ENCOURAGE THAT LITTLE CREEP! WHY'NT YA GIVE 'IM THE BUM'S RUSH?

IT! IT TICKLES ME-- THAT LITTLE JERK OF A BILLIE THINKIN' HE'S GOT A CHANCE!

YOU KNOW ME-- ANY-THING FOR A LAUGH!

STOP IT, YOU MORON! START A FUSS AND THAT GUY WOULD PULVERIZE BOTH OF US! I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO YOU -- BUT EVERY TIME IT DOES, IT HAPPENS TO ME, TOO!

MMMF!

OH, IF ONLY PHILLIE HAD FOLLOWED THROUGH...AND GOTTEN OUT OF THERE FAST! BUT NO. HE HAD TO LINGER...LONG ENOUGH TO GIVE BILLIE THE OPPORTUNITY HIS REVE

NOW STAY PUT AND SHUT UP! I WANT TO WATCH WHEN HE KISSES HER!

Rosamund Travelli

THAT NIGHT, THE BIG TOP WAS CROWDED! PICTURE YOURSELF THERE, BREATHING IN THE EXCITING CIRCUS SMELL... LISTENING TO THE GAY PIPING OF THE CALLIOPE! THEN A FANFARE OF DRUMS...AND YOU KNOW WHAT'S COMING! THIS IS WHAT YOU'VE COME FOR...TO WATCH ROSAMUND TRAVELI DARE DEATH ON THE SWINGING TRAPEZE...HIGH ABOVE THE AWED MULTITUDE, AND WITHOUT A NET! YOU WATCH THAT TINY PORL, AND SUDDENLY A STRANGE UNEASE GRIPS YOU. YOU LISTEN TO THE RINGMASTER, AND YOU'RE AFRAID!

LA-DEEZ AND GENTLEMEN! THE ONE AND ONLY -- THE DARLING OF THE CIRCUS -- THAT INTREPID MISTRESS OF THE HIGH TRAPEZE...

--ROSAMUND TRAVELI! IN THE DEATH-DEFYING SPECIALTY WHICH HAS MADE HER FAMOUS!...

TAKE IT AWAY, ROSAMUND!

IN THE HUSHED, TENSE SILENCE, THE BEATING OF YOUR HEART SEEMS THUNDEROUS...BUT IT ISN'T LOUD ENOUGH. NOT LOUD ENOUGH TO COVER THE HUNTING TWANG OF PARTING ROPES...OR A WOMAN'S DESPAIRING SCREAM AS SHE HURTLES DOWNWARD!

SNAP!





AND SO DEATH STRUCK FOR THE SECOND TIME THAT NIGHT! LIKE CAIN AND ABEL, BROTHER HAD SLAIN BROTHER. HATRED HAD BEEN PAID OFF IN BLOOD! BILLIE ALLEN HAD SOWED THE WIND...NOW HE WOULD REAP...THE WHIRLWIND!



HOW TO CONCEAL THE EVIDENCE OF A GRISLY CRIME WHEN IT'S PART OF YOUR BODY? BILLIE HAD TO THINK FAST, AS HE HEARD RUNNING FOOTSTEPS...



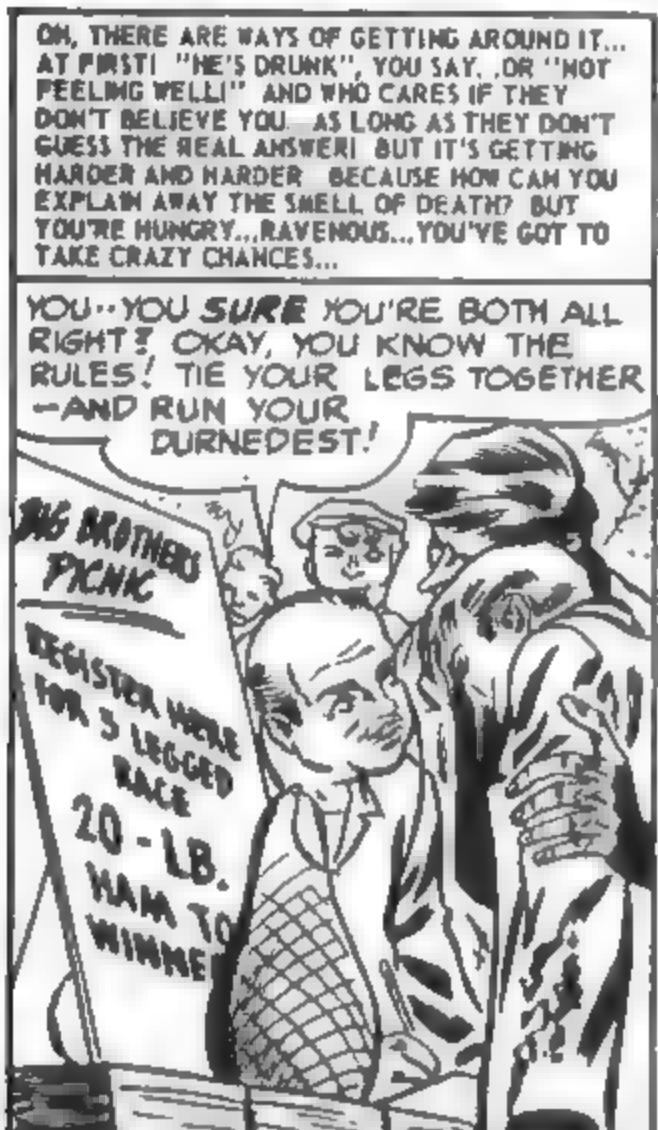
HOW BEST TO MEASURE PANIC, TERROR? BY THE SCREAM THAT TEARS AT YOUR THROAT AT THE SIGHT OF YOUR DEAD BROTHER? BY THE COLD VISE THAT TIGHTENS ON YOUR GUTS EVERY TIME YOU FEEL THE PULL OF A CORPSE... AND KNOW THAT IT WILL ALWAYS BE THERE, ITS BLANK EYES SHRIEKING TO THE WORLD THE AWFUL EVIDENCE OF YOUR GUILT! IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED, BILLIE HID IN DESPERATION FROM THE EYES OF HUMANS...

IT -- IT'S ONLY AN OWL, PHIL! -- GOOD HEAVENS, CAN'T I GET OUT OF THE HABIT OF TALKING TO HIM? I'VE GOT TO REMEMBER HE'S DEAD, DEAD!



HE LEARNED WHAT IT MEANT TO BE HUNGRY...LEARNED WHAT IT WAS TO BE HUNTED!

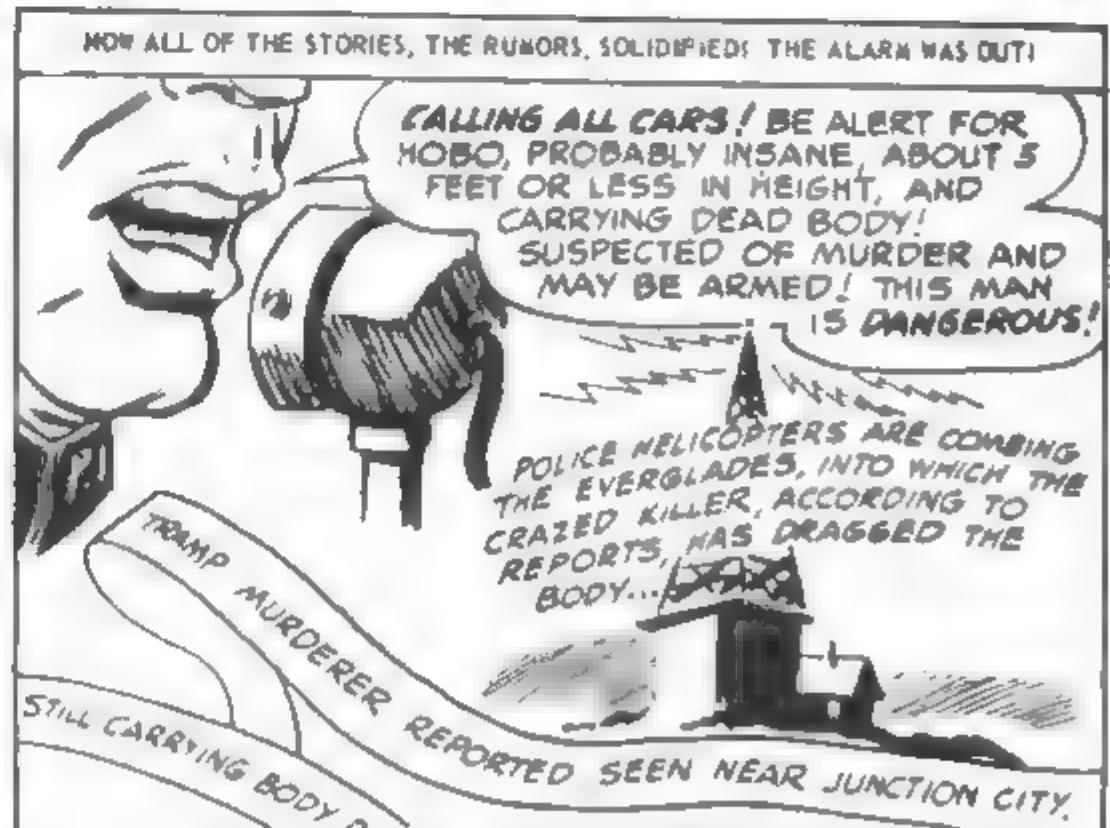




YOU LIVE BY PICKING REFUSE CANS, AND YOU SCUTTLE WILDLY FOR HIDING WHENEVER YOU FEEL EYES UPON YOU... QUESTIONING, SUSPICIOUS EYES! THERE'S NOBODY TO TALK TO EXCEPT A CORPSE... THE CORPSE THAT'S TRAPPED YOU INTO THIS NIGHTMARE! HE WON'T ANSWER, SO YOU HATE HIM FOR IT... HATE HIM EVEN MORE THAN YOU HAD DURING LIFE! SO HIDE, BILLIE, AND SEEK THE FORGETFULNESS THAT ONLY SLEEP WILL BRING! DREAM ABOUT HER, BILLIE ROSAMUND... BEFORE YOUR WORLD FELL APART... AND SADDLED YOU WITH A WEIGHT... A DEAD WEIGHT!



RUN, BILLIE ALLEN.. RUMI TRY TO ESCAPE FROM YOUR GUILT... BUT THE EVIDENCE IS ALWAYS WITH YOU! EVEN IF YOU HAD WINGS, THERE IT WOULD BE... JOINED TO YOU BY UNBREAKABLE CHAINS... SHRIEKING ITS MESSAGE OF MUTE ACCUSATION INTO YOUR COVERING EARS! REMEMBER THAT SONG THAT PHIL TAUNTED YOU WITH... AN ETERNITY AGO? 'I GO WHERE YOU GO... YOU GO WHERE I GO.' "



IT'S A LONG WAY FROM THE CIRCUS, ISN'T IT, BILLIE? THERE ARE NO STARING CROWDS HERE IN THE HEART OF FLORIDA'S GREAT SWAMP... NOBODY TO LOOK, WHISPER, LAUGH! BUT THE FROGS HAVE EYES... THE EGRETS CAN SEE THE THOUSANDS OF LITTLE STINGING INSECTS HAVE YOU IN THEIR MOCKING GLANCE! AND THEY ALL CAN SPEAK, IN A SINGLE DERISIVE VOICE-- A VOICE YOU CAN HARDLY HEAR, BUT IT'S STILL THERE! IT'S BILLIE-- THEY'RE SAYING, "AND PHILLIE! PHILLIE'S COME ALONG FOR THE RIDE... HE'LL NEVER GET RID OF PHILLIE..."



THE SWAMP. THE SWAMP. WHERE YOUR MIND, CRAZED BY HEAT AND STARVATION, FINDS IT DIFFICULT TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN VISION AND REALITY! SOMETIMES THERE ARE LUCID MOMENTS... MOMENTS WHEN YOU SEE SOMETHING CLEARLY, KNOW WHAT YOU MUST DO..."



"...AND YOU DO IT... TO KEEP ALIVE THE PITIFUL REMNANTS OF LIFE WHICH SEEM SO PRECIOUS!"



THEN YOU LOOK AT THE KNIFE... AND YOU LOOK AT THE HULK OF DEAD FLESH WHICH HAS BECOME YOUR CAPTOR, YOUR TORMENTOR, YOUR OLD MAN OF THE SEA. AND THE THOUGHT STRIKES YOU WITH Sledgehammer IMPACT! THE BLADE, THE KEEN, SLASHING BLADE! IT WOULD SPELL FREEDOM. IF YOU ONLY HAD THE COURAGE! A DOZEN TIMES YOU TRY TO BRING IT DOWN... BUT YOU CAN'T DO IT!



BUT THE IDEA DIDN'T DIE EASILY! I SUPPOSE SOME MEANS COULD BE FOUND WHEREBY BILLIE ALLEN COULD HAVE THE JOB DONE FOR HIM! IT BECAME AN OBSESSION WITH HIM AS STRENGTH FAILED AND SWAMP FEVER CLOUDED THE MIND! AND FINALLY THE SOLUTION OFFERED ITSELF... SWAYING CRAZILY BEFORE HIS REELING BRAIN...

GO AHEAD, YOU--MANEATER! I'VE BROUGHT YOU A MEAL! YOU--YOU CAN HAVE HIM! JUST--ONE SLASH OF YOUR TEETH--AND I'LL BE FREE--FREE!



WONDERFUL... WHY HADN'T HE THOUGHT OF THIS BEFORE? THE MIGHTY JAWS SNAPPED DOWN, SHEARING THE TWINS APART IN A SINGLE LIGHTNING MOVE! IT WAS DONE... AT LAST!



THE FOLLOWING DAY... AT FLORIDA STATE POLICE HEADQUARTERS...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOU DIDN'T BRING THAT CHARACTER IN? ONE OF OUR HELICOPTERS SPOTTED HIM YESTERDAY, AND HE SEEMED ALIVE ENOUGH! WHY DIDN'T YOU COLLAR HIM?

THREE OF OUR MEN JUST RETURNED FROM THE HUMMOCK WHERE HE'D BEEN SIGHTED! ALL THEY FOUND WAS THE PUTREFACT CORPSE OF A MAN WHO'D BEEN STRANGLED WEEKS AGO! ONLY THAT-- AND NOTHING MORE!



# The LIVING HEAD



HERE ARE FIENDS PROWLING THE DARKNESS HUNGERING FOR HUMAN SOULS -- THERE ARE FLAPPING CREATURES THAT CIRCLE THE CLOUDY MOON ON A VAMPIRE'S QUEST FOR BLOOD! BUT THERE ARE NAMELESS THINGS BENT ON A MIDNIGHT MISSION TOO GRISLY TO IMAGINE -- AND THIS WAS ONE OF THEM -- THE UNBURIED HORROR THAT CREEPT FORTH AS THE LIVING HEAD!





FOR A SECOND, THE HIDEOUS SHAPE CROUCHES BEHIND THE TWISTED MASS--AND THEN--

HAA HA HA!



TED, LOOK AT THAT THING--IT'S CHANGED!

YES--A MOMENT AGO, IT WAS JUST A LIVING HEAD--BUT NOW--IT'S ADDED A LIVING BODY--EXCEPT FOR THOSE GHOSTLY ARMS!



WITH EYES HOLDING THE SECRETS OF AN EVIL AFTERLIFE--

HAA HA! ANOTHER M DNGHT, AND I WILL FIND ARMS--ARMS THAT GIVE ME CONTROL OF ANOTHER SOUL!



AS THE GRISLY FORM STALKS OFF INTO THE GLOOM--

TED--THE TRAIN IS BACKING UP. DO WE HAVE TO STICK AROUND HERE?

NOT ON YOUR LIFE! WE'RE WITNESSES--AND I DON'T WANT TO BE CONSIDERED COMPLETELY BATS WHEN THEY START ASKING QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT WE SAW!



NEXT DAY--AT ABBY'S HOME--

ABBY HAS NO IDEA HOW FEARFULLY MANGLED THAT BODY WAS LAST NIGHT--BUT I HOPE SHE DIDN'T TUNE IN ON THIS MORNING'S NEWS BROADCAST: THAT EVIL HEAD HAD A BODY WHEN IT LEFT THE SCENE OF THE WRECK--AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT THE TRAIN CREW COULD NOT FIND--ALL OF THE BODY EXCEPT THE SEVERED HEAD AND ARMS!

I'VE GOT THE WEIRD-EST FEELING THAT THERE WAS ANOTHER WITNESS THERE, TED--SOMETHING ELSE THAT WASN'T ALIVE--BUT WHICH WE COULDN'T SEE!

THAT COULDN'T BE ANYTHING BUT THE SPIRIT OF THE MAN WHO DIED! BUT IT'S EASY ENOUGH TO IMAGINE SUCH THINGS, HONEY--AFTER THE SHOCK OF WHAT WE DID SEE!



I'M GLAD YOU CAME DARLING--BECAUSE THERE IS SOMETHING I CAN'T GET OFF MY MIND! YOU CALLED THAT GHOULISH THING LAST NIGHT A LIVING HEAD--AND I WONDER--COULD IT HAVE LIVED FOR SEVERAL HUNDRED YEARS?

LOOK, ABBY--WHY GIVE IT ANOTHER THOUGHT? A FRIGHTFUL ACCIDENT CAN SHOCK PEOPLE INTO ALL KINDS OF WILD HALLUCINATIONS--BUT BE SENSIBLE--WHERE WOULD A FIGURE GET HOLD OF AN EVIL HEAD?



TED--THERE'S A SMALL ITEM IN THE PAPER WHICH MAY ANSWER THAT!  
READ IT!



LET'S SEE... A COLONIAL CEMETERY HAS BEEN EXCAVATED FOR A BUILDING SITE--AND ALL THE REMAINS WERE CAREFULLY GATHERED TOGETHER FOR REBURIAL! ONE OF THE GRAVES CONTAINED NOTHING BUT A WELL-PRESERVED HEAD-- WHICH APPEARS TO HAVE VANISHED SOME TIME DURING THE NIGHT!

THE POLICE THINK IT WAS JUST A PRANK! BUT, TED--THAT CEMETERY WAS ANCIENT! A DISAPPEARING SKULL MIGHT BE SHRUGGED OFF-- BUT A HEAD FROM ONE OF THOSE GRAVES IS SOMETHING THAT'S REMAINED ALIVE!



NO--THIS IS MORE THAN OUR IMAGINATIONS RUNNING RIOT! A HEAD BURIED WITHOUT A BODY--A HEAD PROWLING THROUGH THE DARKNESS SEEKING A BODY--THERE'S SOME CONNECTION!

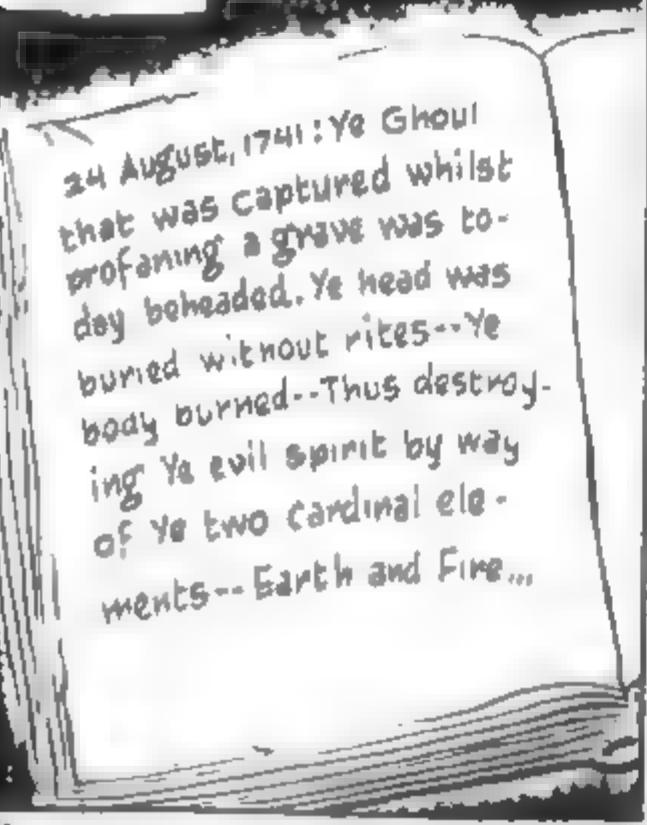
I WAS HOPING YOU'D FORGET ABOUT THE WHOLE THING, ABBY--BUT I'M AFRAID YOU'RE RIGHT! SUPPOSE WE CHECK THE EARLY RECORDS AT CITY HALL--AND SEE WHAT WE CAN LEARN ABOUT THAT OLD CEMETERY!

SOON AFTERWARD-- ACCORDING TO THE PAPERS, THERE WERE ONLY SIXTY GRAVES IN THE CEMETERY! WE'VE ALREADY TRACED FORTY-FIVE OF THE BURIALS--SO WE MUST BE GETTING CLOSE!

YEP--MUCH CLOSER THAN I THOUGHT WE EVER WOULD BE! TAKE A LOOK AT THIS!



LIKE AN ECHO OF ANCIENT TERROR FROM THE YELLOWED PAGE--



A GHoul! THE EVIL SPIRIT SHOULD HAVE BEEN DESTROYED WHEN THE HEAD WAS BURIED OVER TWO CENTURIES AGO--BUT WHAT HAPPENED?

IT'S EASY TO FIGURE OUT! THE EARLY COLONIAL AUTHORITIES HAD THE RIGHT FORMULA FOR GETTING RID OF THE GHoul's SPIRIT--BUT THEY NEVER FORESAW THAT SOME DAY THE HEAD MIGHT BE UNBURIED--A LIVING HEAD THAT IS NOW AGAIN BECOMING A LIVING FIEND!

THAT NIGHT-- IT'S NEARLY 11:30--AND IT GIVES ME THE CREEPS TO REALIZE THAT BY MIDNIGHT THAT HIDEOUS CREATURE WILL BE ON THE PROWL AGAIN!

WISH WE COULD GET HELP, ABBY--BUT WHAT WOULD THE POLICE THINK? WOULD THEY BELIEVE A LIVING HEAD IS ASSEMBLING A NEW BODY FROM DIFFERENT CORPSES--AND THAT THE SPIRITS OF THE DEAD WILL BE ENSLAVED ONCE THE GHoul's BODY IS RESTORED?





A HALF-HOUR LATER--AT A DARKENED  
HOUSE LADEN WITH THE PRESENCE OF  
DEATH--

TED--WATCH!  
THE PHANTOM'S  
STARTING TO  
FADE!

THIS IS THE PLACE IT  
WANTED US TO COME  
TO! LET'S TAKE A LOOK  
INSIDE--AND SEE IF WE  
CAN LEARN WHY!

I HAD A HUNCH  
THERE'D BE A  
CORPSE HERE--  
BUT THAT STRANGE,  
BOBBING LIGHT  
ABOVE THE COFFIN  
IS SOMETHING  
ELSE AGAIN!

TED--LET'S NOT STAY!  
WE'VE HAD ENOUGH OF  
THE SUPERNATURAL--  
AND IT'S MEANT  
NOTHING BUT  
TERROR!



SLOWLY, THE DOUBLE GLOW TAKES ON FORM--  
WEAVING AND GROPING IN THE SHADOWS!

GOOD LORD--  
THEY'RE HANDS!

OHN! THOSE  
AWFUL  
CLUTCHING  
THINGS--LOOK  
THEY'RE GLIDING  
OUT!

DON'T GET PANICKY--  
THERE'S NO INDICATION  
THEY'RE GOING TO  
GRAB US!



AS IF DIRECTED BY UNSEEN  
FOOTSTEPS--

HEAVENS, TED--  
WHY ON EARTH  
WOULD GHOSTLY  
HANDS HOVER  
INTO A  
GARAGE?

HARD TO SAY  
--BUT THERE  
IS A MIND AT  
WORK HERE--  
AND THOSE HANDS  
ARE MOTIVATED  
BY A DEFINITE  
PURPOSE!

A MOMENT LATER--MOVING BACK AND  
FORTH BEFORE THE SILENT HOUSE--

NOW THEY'RE  
POURING GASOLINE  
ALL ALONG THE  
DIRT DRIVEWAY--  
AND YOU CAN BET  
THERE'S A REASON  
FOR THAT, TOO!

THAT'S JUST WHAT  
I'M AFRAID OF!  
TED, WE WEREN'T  
BROUGHT HERE  
JUST TO WATCH  
SOMETHING--WE  
ARE GOING TO  
BE INVOLVED IN  
THIS HIDEOUS  
BUSINESS--AND  
I'M TERRIFIED!

MAYBE YOU'RE  
RIGHT... THE  
HANDS SEEM  
TO HAVE DONE  
JUST SO MUCH--  
AND NOW  
SUDDENLY--  
THEY'RE  
RETURNING  
TO THE  
COFFIN!

IT MAY  
SEEM  
SUDDEN,  
BUT THE  
TIMING'S  
JUST RIGHT  
-- IT'S  
NEARLY  
MIDNIGHT!

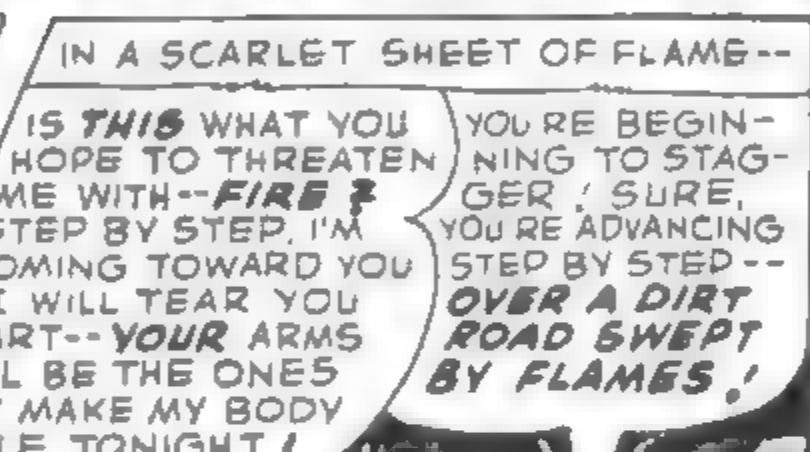




NOW I KNOW WHY WE HAVE BEEN BROUGHT HERE--TO PROVIDE THE HUMAN FACTOR THAT CAN LEAD TO THAT FIEND'S DESTRUCTION! IT WAS DESTROYED ONCE--AND NOW EVERYTHING'S SET FOR US TO USE THE SAME METHOD--EARTH AND FIRE!



YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN, CREEP--PROVIDED YOU'RE ABLE TO TALK!



YOU'RE BEGINNING TO STAGGER! SURE, YOU'RE ADVANCING STEP BY STEP--OVER A DIRT ROAD SWEEPED BY FLAMES!



YOU NEEDN'T WORRY ABOUT THAT--BECAUSE THIS TIME EARTH AND FIRE HAVE BEEN COMBINED! THERE ISN'T A FRAGMENT OF THAT FIEND REMAINING--ABLE TO STALK THE NIGHT SEEKING THE GRISLY MAKINGS FOR ANOTHER BODY!

THE  
End

IT WAS A STRANGE, FORBIDDING MYSTERY THAT DR. WALDO HAMILTON FOUND HIMSELF TRYING TO UNRAVEL--  
FOR WHO HAD EVER BEFORE DEALT WITH TWIN SPIRITS INHABITING A SINGLE BODY? AND  
WHEN ONE OF THESE WAS EVIL INCARNATE, SCIENCE FOUND ITSELF MATCHED AGAINST A SUPER-  
NATURAL FIEND--IN THE PERSON OF THE ...

# TWIN OF TERROR



IN THE OFFICE OF DR. WALDO HAMILTON,  
PROMINENT PSYCHIATRIST--

MRS. PATRICIA HARTLEY IS HERE TO SEE YOU, DOCTOR! SOCIETY GIRL SHE'S THAT DEBUTANTE WHO MARRIED WHOSE RECENT WEDDING WAS THE TALK OF THE TOWN! AH, YES? THE KNEW ANYTHING ABOUT! ASK HER TO COME IN, PLEASE!



I .. I CAME TO SEE YOU DOCTOR, BECAUSE I THINK EITHER I'M MAD OR MY HUSBAND IS! YOU SEE, HE.. HE'S MORE THAN ONE PERSON! HE'S GOT TWO SPIRITS-- ONE GOOD HMM - SOUNDS THE OTHER LIKE A CASE OF HORRIBLY SCHIZOPHRENIA-- EVIL! A SPLIT PERSONALITY!



NO, IT'S NOT JUST OBVIOUSLY SHE'S HIS PERSONALITY! THE ONE WHO'S THE ARE TWO MENTALLY ILL--SUFFER- VISIBLE SPIRITS ING FROM HALLUCINATIONS! BOTH OCCUPYING HIS BODY!

I-- I'VE SEEN THEM!

WHY DON'T YOU LIE DOWN HERE AND TELL ME THE WHOLE STORY FROM THE BEGINNING, MRS. HARTLEY?



I FELL IN LOVE WITH GUY HARTLEY THE MOMENT I MET HIM! THERE WAS SOMETHING DIFFERENT ABOUT HIM -- AN OTHER-WORLDLINESS AND A WONDERFUL TENDERNESS THAT BEWITCHED ME! BUT RIGHT AFTER OUR MARRIAGE SOMETHING HAPPENED ... SOMETHING HORRIBLE!



"WE WERE DRIVING TO THE HONEYMOON LODGE WE'D RENTED--WHEN ALONG ABOUT MIDNIGHT--"

YOU KNOW, DARLING, I'VE NEVER BEEN WITH YOU THIS LATE BEFORE! YOU WERE ALWAYS SO RESPECTFUL, ALWAYS LEFT ME

YES...I...I ALWAYS GET UNACCOUNTABLY TIRED AND SLEEPY AROUND THIS TIME ... INCLUDING RIGHT BEFORE MIDNIGHT!

NOW! I'M AFRAID I'LL HAVE TO PULL UP...TO THE SIDE OF THE...ROAD...



"AN INSTANT LATER, GUY SLUMPED OVER THE WHEEL, AS IF...DEAD! THEN, LOOMING SPECTRALLY OUT OF THE NIGHT--"



"NUMB WITH TERROR, I WATCHED THE HIDEOUSLY EVIL-LOOKING SHAPE BEGIN TO MERGE WITH GUY'S BODY, AND AS IT DID, IT SEEMED TO FORCE OUT ANOTHER SPIRIT--ONE WITH A GOOD, KIND FACE!"



"THE MOMENT THE GOOD SPIRIT WAS EVICTED FROM MY HUSBAND'S BODY, IT VANISHED--AND THEN GUY, OR THE MAN WHO HAD BEEN GUY, BEGAN TO WAKE UP!"

GUY! W-WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU? YOUR FACE--IT'S LIKE A--A--MANIAC'S! AND YOUR EYES--THEY'RE HIDEOUSLY EVIL! YOU-- YOU'RE FRIGHTENING ME!



YOU WHINING LITTLE FOOL! YOU DON'T KNOW THE MEANING OF TERROR, BUT YOU WILL-- UNLESS YOU OBEY ME! FIRST, WE'RE GOING BACK TO YOUR HOUSE-- WHERE YOU'RE GOING TO GIVE ME ALL THE MONEY YOU'VE GOT!

STOP.. YOU'RE HURTING ME! PLEASE DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT! I.. I'LL DO WHATEVER YOU SAY!



"THE DRIVE BACK WAS A GHASTLY ORDEAL - BUT THE NIGHT OF HORRORS WASN'T OVER YET . . ."  
THAT . . . THAT'S ALL  
THE MONEY I HAVE  
IN THE HOUSE --  
I SWEAR IT!



"I WAS TOO TERRIFIED EVEN TO THINK OF RESISTANCE! THEN, TOWARD DAWN, AFTER I'D SIGNED OVER PRACTICALLY EVERYTHING I POSSESSED!"



"HE STAGGERED AWAY AND I HASTILY THREW A FEW THINGS TOGETHER! THEN AS I DASHED PANIC-STRICKEN OUT OF THE HOUSE . . ."



"THEN IN A STARTLING REVERSAL OF WHAT HAD HAPPENED BEFORE . . ."



"A MOMENT LATER . . ."

IT'S GUY AGAIN -- AS WHERE--WHERE HE WAS BEFORE! I - I AM I? MUST BE LOSING MY MIND!



WHAT - WHAT ON EARTH ARE WE DOING BACK AT YOUR HOUSE, DARLING? THE LAST I REMEMBER WE WERE ON OUR WAY TO OUR HONEY-MOON LODGE!

IT IS GUY -- AS I LEARNED TO LOVE HIM! AND HE DOESN'T REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED -- BUT MAYBE IT DIDN'T HAPPEN AT ALL? IF I TELL HIM - HELL THINK I'M MAD! WHO KNOWS - MAYBE I AM!



TWO THINGS HAVE PREVENTED ME FROM LEAVING GUY SINCE THAT HORRIBLE NIGHT -- ONE, I DON'T KNOW WHETHER I'M SEEING THINGS THAT AREN'T REALLY THERE - AND TWO, I STILL LOVE GUY AS HE IS IN THE DAYTIME! BUT EACH NIGHT, WHEN THE EVIL SPIRIT TAKES OVER, GUY IS LIKE A DEMON POSSESSED! HE LOCKS HIMSELF IN THE GARAGE, WHERE HE PORES OVER STRANGE BOOKS AND MANUSCRIPTS WHICH HE'S BOUGHT WITH MY MONEY FROM EVEN STRANGER PEDDLERS WHO CALL ON HIM IN

THE DEAD OF NIGHT!



IF SHE IS MAD, IT'S THE STRANGEST PSYCHOSIS I'VE EVER COME ACROSS! BUT THERE'S SOMETHING... CONVINCING ABOUT HER STORY! I'D BETTER CHECK ON IT!

I'D LIKE TO WITNESS THIS TRANSFORMATION IN YOUR HUSBAND, MRS. HARTLEY! CAN YOU LET ME INTO YOUR HOUSE SECRETLY -- JUST BEFORE MIDNIGHT?

CERTAINLY DOCTOR!



THAT NIGHT -- YOU'RE JUST IN TIME, DOCTOR -- GUY'S JUST FALLEN ASLEEP! COME QUICKLY!



OUT... OUT! YE GODS -- EVERYTHING SHE TOLD ME IS TRUE!



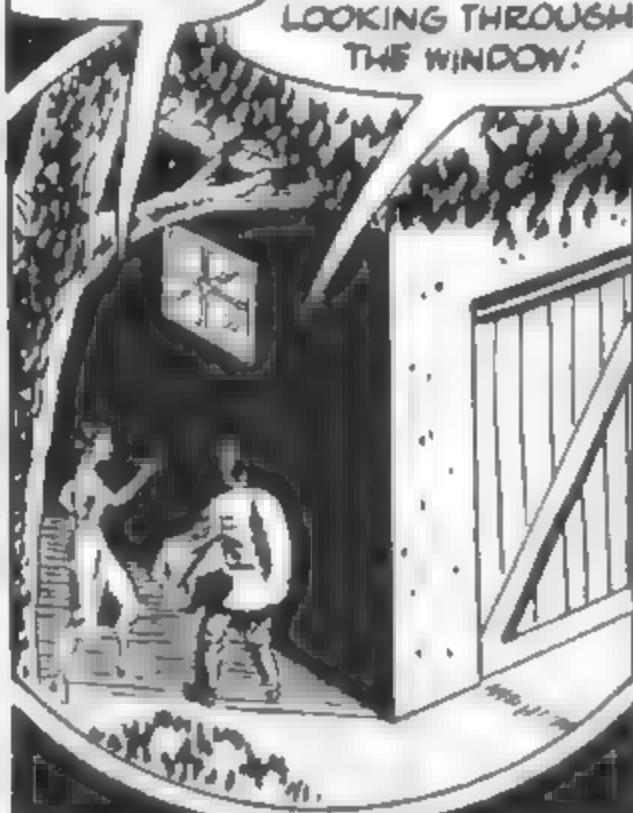
MOMENTS LATER -- MY BOOKS! I MUST GET BACK TO MY BOOKS!

COME ON - LET'S FOLLOW HIM!



HE'S LOCKED HIMSELF IN THE GARAGE -- AS USUAL!

I'M GOING TO SEE WHAT HE'S DOING -- BY CLIMBING ON THIS AND LOOKING THROUGH THE WINDOW!



THE ANSWER MUST BE IN ONE OF THESE ANCIENT MANUSCRIPTS -- IT MUST BE! I'VE GOT TO FIND OUT HOW TO DESTROY THE OTHER SPIRIT -- SO THEN I

ALONE WILL POSSESS THE BODY OF GUY HARTLEY!



TOWARD DAWN, AFTER A NIGHT-LONG VIGIL...

AT LAST, THE ANSWER--I'VE FOUND IT! BUT IT'S TOO CLOSE TO DAWN! TOO LATE TO TRY IT NOW! GETTING SLEEPY--HAVE TO LOCK UP--GET BACK TO THE HOUSE -- TRY IT TOMORROW NIGHT!

MINUTES LATER--

HE BARELY MADE IT BACK TO THE CHAIR -- BEFORE COLLAPSING!

OUT, FIEND!

HE'S BEGINNING TO AWAKEN, MRS. HARTLEY! NOW LISTEN CAREFULLY--WE'VE GOT NO TIME TO WASTE NOW THAT HIS EVIL SPIRIT HAS APPARENTLY FOUND A WAY OF DESTROYING THE OTHER! I WANT YOU

TO FIND OUT WHO GUY'S FAMILY DOCTOR WAS, AND THEN LOCATE HIM AT ALL COSTS! MEANWHILE, I'M BREAKING INTO THE GARAGE TO DO SOME STUDYING OF MY OWN!

BY MID-AFTERNOON...

THANK GOODNESS, I FINALLY LOCATED THE HARTLEY FAMILY PHYSICIAN--I'VE GOT HIM ON THE PHONE FOR YOU, DOCTOR!

GOOD--MY RESEARCH HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL, TOO!

YES, INDEED--I REMEMBER THE HARTLEY CASE VERY WELL! GUY HARTLEY WAS ONE OF TWINS, BUT THE OTHER ONE DIED SOME TIME BEFORE BIRTH! VERY UNUSUAL CASE!

THANKS, DOCTOR--THAT CONFIRMS MY HUNCH.

TRY TO UNDERSTAND, MR. HARTLEY--MUCH AS THIS APPALS YOU! TWINS WERE IN THE MYSTERIOUS PROCESS OF BIRTH, BUT ONE DIED--WHICH LEFT TWO SPIRITS FIGHTING FOR POSSESSION OF THE ONE REMAINING BODY! YOUR BROTHER'S SPIRIT BECAME DIABOLICALLY EVIL, CONSUMED WITH INTENSE GREED FOR WHAT WAS NOT RIGHTFULLY HIS, AND SUCCEEDED IN BEING ABSORBED INTO YOUR LIVING TISSUE--AND THE BATTLE FOR TOTAL POSSESSION HAS GONE ON EVER SINCE!

BUT--BUT WHY WASN'T I AWARE OF THIS FIENDISH PRESENCE DURING MY WAKING MOMENTS?

I FOUND THAT ANSWER IN THOSE OCCULT BOOKS! IN SUCH CASES AS YOURS, EACH SPIRIT CAN TAKE CONTROL OF THE BODY ONLY WHEN THE OTHER IS ASLEEP, THEREFORE POWERLESS TO KEEP ITSELF FROM BEING DRIVEN OUT! BUT SINCE YOUR NATURE IS BASICALLY GOOD, YOU REPRESS-ED ALL KNOWLEDGE OF THIS EVIL FORCE IN YOUR LIFE--SO THAT YOU WERE COMPLETELY UNAWARE OF WHAT YOU DID WHEN YOUR EVIL SIDE WAS DOMINANT!

BUT I ALSO LEARNED THE SECRET YOUR EVIL SPIRIT WAS SO DESPERATELY SEARCHING FOR--A SECRET WHICH WOULD HAVE GIVEN HIM COMPLETE MASTERY NIGHT AND DAY! AND THIS IS IT! IF EITHER SPIRIT DOESN'T RETURN TO THE BODY AT ITS FIXED TIME, IT WEAKENS THROUGH LACK OF BODILY NOURISHMENT--FINALLY TO DISINTEGRATE AND BE UTTERLY DESTROYED! BUT I HAVE A PLAN...

A PLAN WHICH WILL THWART HIS DEVILISH DESIGN!

THIS...

THIS IS SO .. INCREIBLE! BUT IF BOTH OF YOU SAY IT'S ALL TRUE, I'LL DO WHATEVER YOU SAY!

GATER, AS THE STROKE OF MIDNIGHT TOLLS THE KNELL OF DOOM--

THE EVIL SPIRIT! IT'S MATERIALIZED!

YE GODS -- IS THAT FIEND PART OF ME?

DON'T WORRY--I'VE GOT ENOUGH STIMULANTS IN YOU TO KEEP YOUR TRUE SPIRIT STRONG AND AWAKE! BUT TO MAKE SURE, I'LL INJECT EVEN MORE!

BLAST YOU-- THIS IS MY APPOINTED TIME TO TAKE CONTROL! I...I'VE GOT TO TAKE POSSESSION OF YOUR BODY NOW... BUT I--I CAN'T!

WE'RE DOING JUST WHAT YOU PLANNED TO DO TONIGHT--TO KEEP YOUR OPPOSING SPIRIT OUT, ONCE YOU HAD CONTROL! IT'LL TAKE A LITTLE TIME--BUT YOU'LL GET WEAKER... AND WEAKER...

AS THE MINUTES TICK AWAY AND THE STRANGE BATTLE WANES...

TOO... TOO WEAK NOW... I--I'VE LOST--

IT'S ALL OVER--YOUR EVIL SPIRIT HAS VANISHED INTO THE LIMBO OF NON-EXISTENCE!

I--I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO THANK YOU ENOUGH, DOCTOR! FOR NOW I HAVE MARCIA, ALL TO MYSELF!



the  
END

SO YOU DON'T **BELIEVE** IN THE SUPERNATURAL! YOU THINK THAT GRAVEYARD GHOSTS AND ROTTING ZOMBIES DON'T EXIST--BUT MOST OF ALL, YOU DERIDE THE STORIES OF THE ANCIENT BLOOD LUST THAT TURNS A HUMAN INTO A THING THAT FLAPS BY NIGHT! OLD WIVES' TALES, YOU SAY--AND YOU'VE COME TO VISIT THE **INSTITUTE OF RESEARCH INTO VAMPIRISM** JUST TO SNEER! BUT THE CURATOR HAS A WAY OF DEALING WITH DOUBTERS! LISTEN TO WHAT HE HAS TO REVEAL--HANG BREATHLESS ON EVERY WORD--BEFORE YOU SAY--

# CURSE OF THE VAMPIRES



WELL, WELL--SO YOU'RE A READER OF THIS MAGAZINE WHO DOESN'T **BELIEVE** IN VAMPIRES! COME, SIT DOWN--MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE--WHILE I TELL YOU A STORY WHICH MAY MAKE YOU THINK DIFFERENTLY!



AS CURATOR OF THIS INSTITUTE, I'M IN A POSITION TO ACQUAINT YOU WITH AN **AUTHENTIC CASE** FROM OUR FILES! HERE IT IS--NO. 214-A--THE CASE OF **LISA CASMANA**!



"YOU'D NEVER THINK THAT IT COULD START THIS WAY--WITH A TINY REFUGEE STUMBLING AWAY FROM THE FLAMING WRECKAGE OF A CASTLE IN CENTRAL EUROPE, DESTROYED BY BOMBARDMENT DURING THE LATE WAR--"



"AMERICA--FOSTER-PARENTS WHO IDOLIZED THE TOT! THEY DIDN'T KNOW THAT WITHIN HER, THE OLD VAMPIRE TAINT STIRRED! THEY THOUGHT IT CUTE WHEN SHE SLEPT WITH HER DOLL--NOT REALIZING THAT HER TEETH WERE CLOSED ON ITS THROAT!"



"NO, LISA DIDN'T REALIZE THERE WAS ANYTHING WRONG! SHE GREW OLDER-- HARDLY COMPREHENDING THE STRANGE DREAMS--THE WEIRD, DIM DREAMS--"



"SHE DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHY--NOT THEN! THAT HAD TO WAIT FOR MATURITY! IT HAPPENED ON A DATE NIGHT... UP ABOVE, A FULL MOON SHONE! IT WAS THE ANCIENT SIGNAL OF THE VAMPIRE CLAN--AND WITHIN HER, FOR THE FIRST TIME--THE HUNGER GREW!"



"NATURALLY, SHE WAS BESIDE HERSELF AT WHAT HAD HAPPENED! BUT AS SHE KNELT OVER HIS BODY HYSTERICALLY--"



"WHO CAN BELIEVE THE AWFUL HORROR OF WHAT HAPPENED THEN? HANDS INTO CLAWS--TEETH INTO FANGS--THE BLACK WINGS OF THE ACCURSED!"



PRETTY INTERESTING... FOR A FAIRY TALE!

BUT THESE ARE FACTS! FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HER LIFE, DESPITE YOUR DOUBTS AND SNEERS, LISA CASMANA WAS TURNING INTO A VAMPIRE --UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THE FULL MOON AND HER FIRST BAPTISM OF BLOOD! BUT LISTEN--THERE'S MORE TO HER STORY!



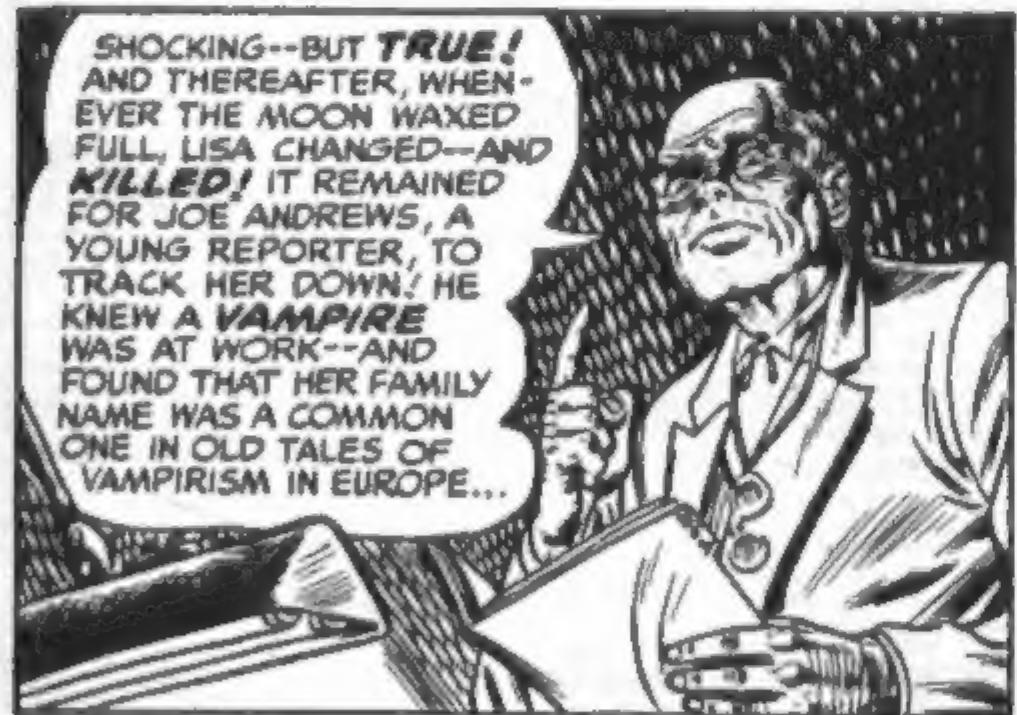
"BY NOW THE POLICE HAD ARRIVED, IN RESPONSE TO HER VICTIM'S DYING CRIES! IT WAS TIME FOR THE VAMPIRE TO TEST HER WINGS!"

"HIGH OVER THE ROOFS OF THE CITY SPED THE AWFUL CREATURE THAT HAD ONCE BEEN A WOMAN! AND FINALLY--"



"YES, THERE WAS SOMEONE THERE--SOMEONE WHO KINDED HER NEWFOUND BLOOD LUST TO A BLAZING HEIGHT!"





BUT THERE'S STILL ONE CHANCE, LISA! MY STUDIES HAVE CONVINCED ME THAT VAMPIRISM ISN'T SUPER-NATURAL, BUT PHYSICAL! THERE'S A DANGEROUS OPERATION TO REMOVE A FAULTY GLAND AT THE BASE OF THE BRAIN--

I'LL GLADLY RISK MY LIFE, JOE--FOR OUR LOVE!

"YES, FOR THEIR LOVE--AND TO WIPE AWAY THE BLOODSTAINED CURSE OF VAMPIRISM--"

IT'S GOING TO COME OUT ALL RIGHT, HONEY--IT'S GOT TO!

EVEN IF IT DOESN'T--JUST REMEMBER--WHAT YOU'VE MEANT TO ME!

"THIS WAS THE SCIENTIFIC APPROACH TO AN AGE-OLD PROBLEM--AS THE SCALPEL PROBED, PROBED FOR THE HIDDEN CAUSE BEHIND THE ANCIENT BLOODLUST! WOULD IT--COULD IT BE SUCCESSFUL? COULD LISA SURVIVE THE DELICATE SURGERY?"

1--2--3-- RESPIRATION FAINTER--

"BUT DAYS LATER--"

YOU--YOU'RE GOING TO LIVE, LISA! THE OPERATION WAS A SUCCESS--THE SURGEONS WERE ABLE TO REMOVE THAT GLAND I TOLD YOU ABOUT!

OH, JOE, DARLING--IT'S SO WONDERFUL TO BE NORMAL--AND IN LOVE!

"YES, JUST TO BE A HEALTHY, HAPPY GIRL--TO MARRY THE MAN SHE IDOLIZED--"

...AND I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU MAN AND WIFE!

I STILL SAY THE WHOLE THING'S NUTS! BUT AT LEAST IT ENDS HAPPILY!

OH, THEY WERE THE HAPPIEST COUPLE IN THE WORLD, ALL RIGHT! WHY SHOULDN'T THEY BE? HADN'T HER BLOOD LUST DISAPPEARED? WASN'T SHE COMPLETELY CURED? AND IF YOU WANT PROOF--LET'S LOOK IN ON THEIR HONEYMOON!

LATEST STYLE IN HUSBANDS-- FLOWERS IN THEIR HAIR! OH, JOE, ISN'T IT--WONDERFUL? SO MUCH SO IT ALMOST MAKES ME WORRY--

UH-UH--MY WIFE ISN'T ALLOWED TO WORRY! AFTER ALL, WE'VE GOT EACH OTHER--WHAT ELSE IS THERE?



# see through walls



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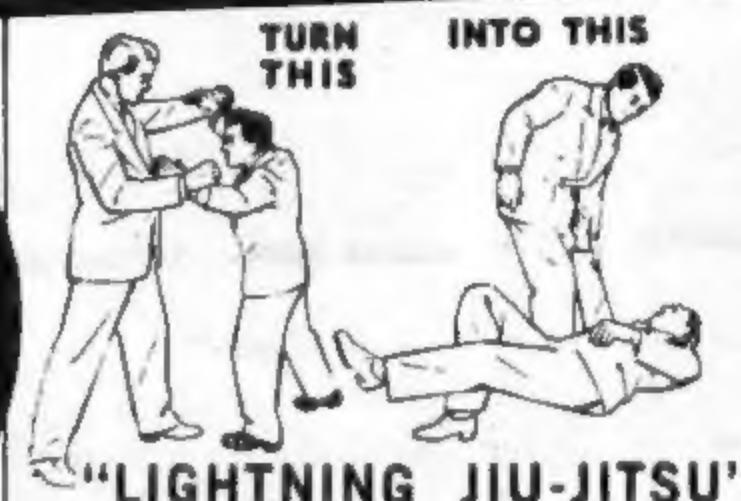
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"HAPPILY THEY LINGERED IN THAT PEACEFUL SPOT AS DAY DIED! BEHIND THEM--THE FULL MOON ROSE--"



"YES, LISA--WHY SO STRANGE? CAN IT BE THAT THE FULL MOON STRIKES WITH FATAL FASCINATION? THAT THE OPERATION HAD GIVEN ONLY TEMPORARY RELIEF, RATHER THAN CURE? THAT YOU'RE -- CHANGING?"



"IT WAS THEN THAT JOE OPENED HIS EYES--TO GAZE UPON THE LAST THING HE WAS EVER TO SEE--LISA'S FANGS AS THEY LUNGED TOWARDS HIS THROAT!"



SO THERE IT IS...  
AN AUTHENTIC  
CASE WHICH  
PROVES THAT  
VAMPIRES  
EXIST--AND  
SHOWS THAT  
THEY'RE  
DANGEROUS!

HA-HA-HA!  
VAMPIRES?  
DON'T MAKE  
ME LAUGH!  
THERE'S A FULL  
MOON NOW--  
AND DO YOU  
THINK I'M  
AFRAID?



YOU'RE--RIGHT!  
THERE IS A FULL  
MOON, ISN'T THERE--  
BUT YOU'RE NOT  
AFRAID!



NOT AFRAID--BUT YOU SHOULD BE!  
YOU SEE--I GET MY PREY FROM  
DOUBTERS LIKE YOU!

